

WADENA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
APRIL 5, 2016

Wadena County Courthouse, Commissioners' Room
415 South Jefferson Street, Wadena, Minnesota

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Chairperson Hofer called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and all present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present:	District 1	Sheldon Monson
	District 2	Jim Hofer
	District 3	Bill Stearns
	District 4	Rodney Bounds
	District 5	Dave Hillukka

Also present: County Coordinator Curt Kreklau, Jr., County Auditor/Treasurer Judy Taves, Auditor's Office Senior Accountant Janet Kern, Highway Engineer Ryan Odden, Human Services Director Tanya Leskey, Planning & Zoning Director Deana Malone, Mark Hanson, Gina Dahms, Missy Lund, Luke Manderscheid, Mike Olson, Laree Robards, Jode Freyholtz-London, Tom London, *Sebeka Review* Messenger/*Verndale Sun* Reporter Matthew B. Johnson and *Staples World* Reporter Laurinda Porter.

Review and Approve 4-5-16 Regular County Board Meeting Agenda

Moved by Commissioner Monson seconded by Commissioner Bounds to approve the agenda of the April 5, 2016 regular County Board Meeting as amended to add Discussion of Friday's Motion Regarding BHH, add CSAH23 Approval, add Approval of Viking Office Supply Bill, and to delete Curt and replace with Luke Manderscheid under County Hazard Mitigation Plan and Resolution, motion carried unanimously.

Commissioners Monson and Stearns would like to give a report on their meeting last week with Senator Skoe. That will be done after the Review of Friday's Motion.

Review and Approve Minutes

Moved by Commissioner Hillukka seconded by Commissioner Stearns to approve the Board of Commissioner's Meeting Minutes of March 8, 2016 and March 15, 2016, motion carried unanimously.

Board Warrants

Moved by Commissioner Hillukka seconded by Commissioner Stearns to approve payment of the Board Warrants in the amount of \$264,037.61, motion carried unanimously.

Viking Office Supply

Moved by Commissioner Bounds seconded by Commissioner Monson to approve payment to Viking Office Supply on Auditor's check in the amount of \$3,555.00, motion carried unanimously.

US Bank

Moved by Commissioner Hillukka seconded by Commissioner Stearns to approve payment of US Bank warrants in the amount of \$5,547.27, motion carried unanimously.

\$5,000 Postage

The new postage machine came in. The postage cannot be taken off the old one and put on the new one so they have to wait for a refund. \$5,000 needs to be put on the new postage machine. When the refund comes, it will be put back into the fund it was taken out of.

Moved to Commissioner Monson seconded by Commissioner Stearns to approve \$5,000 in postage, motion carried unanimously.

Judy Taves – Tax Forfeiture Sale

An informational sheet was provided on the tax forfeited land sale indicating there are approximately 17 parcels – 5 are for a regular land sale and 12 are for adjacent land owners. The sales on the adjacent land owners are handled differently as they are approached privately. Missy Lund said they anticipate coming to the Board on May 3rd to set sale prices and are looking at a tentative sale date of Wednesday, June 29, 2016 for the 5 parcels. One of the 5 parcels is 368 acres where Cottingham Trail is the only access. They would like to see if that could be split to make it more sellable. There was discussion about the sale of the house in Verndale and the procedure of providing a walk-through prior to the sale.

Ryan Odden would like a parcel along County 7 held back because a bridge project will be done along that parcel and Ryan wants to wait to sell it until after that project is done.

Deana Malone mentioned the DNR had indicated last year they would try and tag theirs onto a tax forfeited land sale with Wadena County's at some point. Cheryl from the DNR contacted them and Gina asked where they were at with the parcels that the DNR was going to sell for them. Cheryl replied the parcels are being reviewed right now by the new State Trust Administrator and she wasn't sure of the timeline, but they need to identify more parcels if the trust doesn't agree with their choices. Ms. Dahms said it sounds like they may not be agreeing to all the parcels they initially agreed to sell for the County. Deana remarked it may be necessary to look to state representation to put pressure on them and make sure we get what they promised us.

Jode Freyholtz-London – Wellness in the Woods

Ms. Freyholtz-London gave a report on Wellness in the Woods, a non-profit organization she started that represents individuals with mental health experiences. It is the only state-wide organization in Minnesota that represents and is the voice of individuals who receive mental health services. She hopes to build services here and be available for a resource.

Mark Hanson – Economic Development Update(s)

Mark Hanson represents West Central Economic Development Alliance and is the economic development director for Wadena County. He has been working on the digital directory and just completed the City of Wadena. There are over 400 locations on Google Maps to show case the county and the cities and he gave a demonstration. He is asking for the Commissioners to adopt it as the official digital directory. The URL is Gatewaytothenorthtour.com. As part of the economic development for Wadena County, it is offered free of charge. The goal is to work with the county, cities and chambers to have this adopted as the official digital directory and have it on the websites of the county, cities and chamber. It was brought up that there are portions of the Staples area that are on the Wadena County side, such as Central Lakes College and other businesses. Mr. Hanson will check into adding the larger entities of that area. The Board gave the approval to adopt it as the official digital directory.

The Board recessed at 10:02 a.m. and reconvened at 10:08 a.m.

Luke Manderscheid – County Hazard Mitigation Plan and Resolution

Mr. Manderscheid presented the Wadena County All-Hazard Mitigation Plan which has been updated and approved by the State and FEMA and sent back for Resolution by the County Board's approval.

Moved by Commissioner Hillukka seconded by Commissioner Monson to approve the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION OF WADENA COUNTY

ADOPTION OF THE
WADENA COUNTY ALL-HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

WHEREAS, Wadena County has participated in the hazard mitigation planning process as established under the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, and

WHEREAS, the Act establishes a framework for the development of a County Hazard Mitigation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Act as part of the planning process requires public involvement and local coordination among neighboring local units of government and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the Wadena County Plan includes a risk assessment including past hazards, hazards that threaten the County, an estimate of structures at risk, a general description of land uses and development trends; and

WHEREAS, the Wadena County Plan includes a mitigation strategy including goals and objectives and an action plan identifying specific mitigation projects and costs; and

WHEREAS, the Wadena County Plan includes a maintenance or implementation process including plan updates, integration of the plan into other planning documents and how Wadena County will maintain public participation and coordination; and

WHEREAS, the Plan has been shared with the Minnesota Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency for review and comment; and

WHEREAS, the Wadena County All-Hazard Mitigation Plan will make the county and participating jurisdictions eligible to receive FEMA hazard mitigation assistance grants; and

WHEREAS, this is a multi-jurisdictional Plan and cities that participated in the planning process may choose to also adopt the County Plan.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Wadena County supports the hazard mitigation planning effort and wishes to adopt the Wadena County All-Hazard Mitigation Plan.

This Resolution was declared duly passed and adopted and was signed by the Wadena County Board of Commissioners and attested to by the Wadena County Coordinator this 5th day of April, 2016. James A. Hofer, Wadena County Board, Chair. Attest: Curt Kreklau, Wadena County Coordinator.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ryan Odden – Wadena County Ag Society Bleachers and Restrooms

Ryan Odden and Mike Olson, Ag Society President, made an inquiry of the Commissioners asking if they would approve an advance to the Ag Society to pay for two sets of bleachers and build restrooms at the fairgrounds until reimbursement is received from FEMA. This project (PW 527) was approved by FEMA and has been extended several times. When the extension was approved in December, it was conveyed that if action was not taken, another extension would not be approved in July. The extension deadline is June 30. The two sets of bleachers put in the project were about \$40,000 each, bathrooms were quoted at about \$120,000 and there is \$10,000 extra for speakers for the grandstand. When an invoice is submitted to FEMA, 75% of it is reimbursed (federal part) within 30 to 60 days and the remaining 25% is held back until the project is closed out. BHH initially drew the design plan for the bathrooms. Bids were received, but the bid amounts were over the budget. No action has taken place since then. In order to proceed, an ad for bids will need to run in the Verndale Sun for two weeks. Mr. Odden will apply for an extension from FEMA immediately in hopes of getting it approved before the bidding process closes.

Moved by Commissioner Bounds seconded by Commissioner Hillukka to grant an advance of \$200,000 to Wadena County Ag Society to fund regular FEMA project 527 for all eligible items and the funds would temporarily come from General Revenue Fund Surplus and must comply with the bid/quote process, motion carried unanimously.

Ryan Odden – Final Payment Central Specialties

Mr. Odden requested approval for the final payment for two bituminous overlay projects on CSAH 7 and CSAH 29.

Moved by Commissioner Bounds seconded by Commissioner Stearns to approve the final payment to Central Specialties, Inc. of Alexandria, MN for the amount of \$67,765.27 for SAP 080-607-014 and SAP 080-629-009, motion carried unanimously.

Ryan Odden – Highway Annual Report

Mr. Odden presented a financial report of the preceding year to the Board of Commissioners. 4.5 million dollars was spent between salaries and projects and the end of year cash balance for 2015 was \$800,000.

Ryan Odden – Highway Radio Upgrade

In order to get improved radio coverage and to be compatible with emergency services, the Highway Department obtained a quote from Contact Radio Communications for forty 800 MHZ radios and to install them. Mr. Odden contacted Granite Communications to get a second quote but the quote was not received by Friday. This item is tabled to next week.

Ryan Odden – CSAH 23 Approval

Mr. Odden requested approval to award bid for SAP 080-623-020. This project is on CSAH 23 from Trunk Highway 10 to the north city limits of Verndale. It is a full reconstruction as part of the utility replacement that the City is doing in the northeast quadrant of the town.

Moved by Commissioner Monson seconded by Commissioner Stearns to approve the bid award to RL Larson Excavating, Inc. of St. Cloud, MN in the amount of \$316,950.20 for SAP 080-623-020, motion carried unanimously.

Ryan Odden & Curt Kreklau – Courtroom Remodel Substantial Completion

Mr. Kreklau indicated they signed off on the substantial completion for the courtroom remodel. Everything is paid except the retainage.

County State Aid Project Legislative Report

Commissioners Monson and Stearns met with Senator Rod Skoe, head of Senate Tax Committee, Representative Greg Davids, head of the House Tax Committee, and Representative Mark Anderson. The Commissioners went over the spreadsheets they provided to show why they opposed AMC's formula. Senator Gazelka sent a text stating because of the short session, he didn't know if there was going to be any changes to the formula. Commissioner Monson stated that between now and next year's session they need to reach out to the other 13 counties and get a unified voice to AMC saying the formula needs to be changed to reflect property tax equalization more than the other formulas based upon class one crimes and the number of people on assistance. There needs to be more emphasis on property tax equalization. Commissioner Stearns mentioned he received an email from South Country Health Alliance stating that Tara Mack, Chairman of the House Committee, said she wouldn't hear the bill this week because there isn't time, but it has been heard on the Senate side and they passed it in their committee so it's eligible. But, they want the County Commissioners to get ahold of our representatives and have them call Mack to tell her to please hear it before the end of the week.

Discussion of April 1 BHH Motion

Commissioner Bounds is concerned about the time element involved for BHH to put together basic

drawings for the new construction to the north of the courthouse and bring it back before the Board, which date is May 24. Chairperson Hofer stated BHH requested about 45 days due to his work load and the date that was decided to have that done was May 24. Commissioner Bounds feels that is too long of a timespan to get this first step accomplished. Ryan will contact BHH to see if they can bring it back sooner than May 24.

Open Meeting recessed for Negotiations at 11:22 a.m. and Closed Meeting for Negotiations opened at 11:23 a.m.

Ryan Odden – Closed Meeting for Negotiation Strategy

The purpose of the meeting will be to meet in Closed Session for the purpose of discussing labor negotiations strategy, permitted under Minnesota State Statute 13D.03, subd. 1.

The Closed Meeting for Negotiations closed at 12:07 p.m. and the Closed Meeting for Evaluation opened at 12:08 p.m.

Closed Meeting for Employee Performance Evaluation – Coordinator

The purpose of the meeting will be to meet in Closed Session for the purpose of discussing employee performance evaluation, permitted under Minnesota State Statute 13D.05, subd. 3(a).

The Closed Meeting for Evaluation closed at 12:20 p.m. and the Open Meeting re-opened at 12:20 p.m. for adjournment.

The Board of Commissioner's Meeting was adjourned at 12:21 p.m.

Curtis Kreklau, Jr.
Wadena County Coordinator

Jim Hofer, Chairperson
Wadena County Board of Commissioners