

WADENA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS BOARD MEETING
APRIL 3, 2007/9:00 A.M.

The Wadena County Board of Commissioners Meeting was held on Tuesday, April 3, 2007, at the Wadena County Courthouse in the Commissioners Room at 415 Jefferson St. S., Wadena, Minnesota. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Bill Stearns and the pledge of allegiance to the flag was said.

Also present: Commissioners Dave Schermerhorn, Orville Meyer, Mary Harrison, and Lane Waldahl.

Motion by Schermerhorn, seconded by Meyer, to approve the day's agenda as presented, motion carried.

Char West, Auditor/Treasurer, informed the Board that Debbie Carlson, Mayor of Sebeka City, would not be present at the Board Meeting due to the bad weather.

Sheriff Mike Carr informed the Board that he had spoken to Ms. Carlson regarding his cost estimate for the contracting of County law enforcement services with the City of Sebeka. Sheriff Carr reviewed a handout which indicated equipment start-up costs of \$58,088, Deputy salary and benefits of \$68,888 and optional support staff of \$30,794.58 for a total cost of \$157,770.58. He stated that after talking to Ms. Carlson regarding this, she reported to the Sebeka City Council who decided not to contract with the County, but would go with the option of one officer. Sheriff Carr pointed out that these figures could be used for future reference and that he did not feel it was the responsibility of people outside of Sebeka to pay for this cost.

Commissioner Waldahl commented that Sheriff Carr was an elected official and he presents the Board with a budget; the Board does not present him with a budget. He stated that Sebeka has decided not to go with the County and no further discussion was necessary.

Commissioner Stearns pointed out that Sebeka City's decision was based on the \$157,000 per year.

Commissioner Harrison stated that this matter needs to be discussed carefully because the County Commissioners will be blamed for not cooperating with the City of Sebeka.

Commissioner Stearns stated that the Board needs to sit down with the City of Sebeka and consider a four to five year contract.

Commissioner Schermerhorn recommended keeping this information on file and, if the issue was re-visited, it would be a starting point.

Sheriff Carr requested approval by the Board for Family Medical Leave for Jailer/Dispatcher Kelly Waaraniemi.

Motion by Waldahl seconded by Schermerhorn, to approve the request for Family Medical Leave for Jailer/Dispatcher Kelly Waaraniemi, to begin approximately April 23, 2007, for up to 12 weeks, motion carried.

Sheriff Carr informed the Board he had contacted the vendor the City of Wadena recommended to sell the old squad car to, which was out of Chicago. He stated that their offer was only \$200, so the car will go to the auction. Sheriff Carr scheduled a tour of the remodeled Sally Port at 10:00 a.m. during the Board's recess.

Motion by Meyer, seconded by Schermerhorn, to approve the Renewal Application for a Consumption and Display Permit submitted by John and Sharon Long of Wahoo Valley Bar & Grill for the period of April 1, 2007 through March 31, 2008, motion carried.

The Board set the following future Board Meetings; May 1, 2007, May 17, 2007, June 5, 2007, June 21, 2007, July 3, 2007 and July 19, 2007.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Schermerhorn, to approve payment of the Board of Commissioner bills in the amount of \$119,849.84, motion carried.

Rudy Yglesias, Maintenance Superintendent, came before the Board to inform them that the Courthouse elevators electric hydraulic stopper needed to be replacement in order to bring it up to code. Also present was Cody Yglesias, Maintenance employee. Mr. Yglesias stated that the cost would be approximately \$2,000. He pointed out that if the elevator had been installed prior to 1972, the replacement would be considerably more expensive. He stated that this replacement was for the two elevator access doors for the purpose of preventing an accident and was a mandated safety precaution.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Schermerhorn, to authorize the Maintenance Superintendent to replace the electric hydraulic stopper in the Courthouse elevator at a cost of approximately \$2,000, motion carried.

Mr. Yglesias informed the Board that the Maintenance Department office in the Elevator Equipment Room had to be relocated in order to meet OSHA compliance. He stated that they were in the process of finishing an office area in the Wensman Building.

The Board questioned whether the Social Services elevator was in compliance.

Mr. Yglesias stated that the elevator was almost up to date.

Mr. Yglesias informed the Board that the cost for water hookup for a sprinkling system in the Wensman Building would be approximately \$20,000, without the sprinkler installation cost.

Cody Yglesias stated that they had been advised by the Architect and plumber to get an estimate of running the water at least half way into the heated building.

Commissioner Waldahl commented it was his understanding that the Board had approved just the installation of the water line to the building because of the parking lot and tearing up of the road.

Commissioner Stearns agreed it was to bring the water line up to the building and leave it down 8-10' and, if needed in the future, it would be available.

Cody Yglesias recommended the Board wait until they knew what they are going to do with the building and then patch the road as needed. He stated that, at this time, they would only get cost estimates for the work.

Commissioner Meyer questioned whether there would be 2 water line entrances into the building?

Cody Yglesias responded that would be two water lines into the building but one was only a ¾" line.

The Commissioners toured the Law Enforcement Center improvements, which included the new camera system and ceiling tiles in the Dispatch area, the Sally Port storage area and the Sentence To Serve changing room.

Lee Brekke, County Assessor, came before the Board to request approval of the following property tax abatements.

Motion by Meyer, seconded by Harrison, to approve the following property tax abatements:

<u>Parcel Number</u>		<u>Comments</u>
05.019.3030	Jacob Welde	This property was incorrectly put on non-homestead for the 2006 assessment.
06.003.4010	Anna Royal	The person who had a life estate on this property passed away on March 28, 2006, therefore the homestead should not have been taken off.
22.895.0280	Jeffery Scott	The owner had filed for homestead and it was not entered into the system.
22.770.0180 22.770.0195	Lawrence Kneisel	The owner has multiple businesses on his property and should receive preferred commercial on each therefore we need to correct these parcels.

Motion carried.

Mr. Brekke informed the Board that Rising Pheonix had been informed that their newly purchased property did not meet the guidelines for property tax exemption.

Commissioner Stearns stated that he did discuss the matter with Senator Dan Skogen and Representative Dean Simpson, who apparently were going to contact the Department of Revenue.

Commissioners Reports:

Commissioner Waldahl Todd Wadena Community Corrections

Commissioner Stearns Perham Incinerator Meeting of April 4, 2007

Karen Nelson, Public Health Director, presented the Board with an agenda requesting Board action.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Harrison, to approve the revised employment start date of Sue Pauly, Public Health Medical Secretary, from April 23, 2007 to April 16, 2007, motion carried.

Motion by Meyer, seconded by Schermerhorn, to authorize the Public Health Director to sign a contract with Morrison County Public Health for backup Environmental Health Sanitarian services at a cost of \$38.00/hour and expenses as needed, effective current year 2007, motion carried.

Ms. Nelson reviewed a letter from the Minnesota Department of Health regarding Hospitality Fees for Food and Beverage licenses including a list of Special Event licenses in Wadena County. She stated that this fee was good for three events in the year and that the fee may be eliminated in the future.

Ms. Nelson informed the Board of a memo from Jim Mulder, AMC Director, regarding Rural Minnesota Journal-Examining Rural Health Care outlining future delivery of health services in Minnesota.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Schermerhorn, to authorize the request for Family Medical Leave for Jill Davis, Public Health Nurse, starting March 12, 2007, for up to 12 weeks, motion carried.

Commissioners Reports, continued:

Commissioner Harrison Wadena County Parks Board Meeting.

Deana Skov, Zoning/Parks/Solid Waste Administrator, presented the Board with an agenda requesting Board approval. She presented the Board with an annual contract with Widseth, Smith and Nolting for well monitoring and the annual survey at the demolition landfill. Ms. Skov stated that the increase from the previous year's contract was approximately \$800, which she had included in her budget, and that she recommended approval of the contract.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Harrison, to approve the contract with Widseth, Smith and Nolting for well monitoring and the annual survey at the demolition landfill, in the amount of \$7,247, motion carried.

Ms. Skov commented on the Parks Board Meeting and informed them that Glenn Motzko,

Parks Department, had begun cleaning and making necessary repairs prior to the opening of the area parks on May 1st. She stated that considerable repair had to be done due to vandalism. Ms. Skov informed the Board that Sentenced to Serve will be building approximately 20 new tables as well as new signage, and clearing roads to the parks, which is included in the budget. She stated that during the annual Park Board Meeting, it was recommended that an application be submitted for an Operation Round Up grant from Todd-Wadena Electric for signing to Old Wadena Park and that she would also like to use tax forfeited funds for signing, which she will discuss with the County Auditor/Treasurer. Ms. Skov pointed out that a schedule will be worked out with the Highway Engineer for road grading of the County Parks, to be put on next year's budget.

Motion by Meyer, seconded by Schermerhorn, to approve the Planning Commission Minutes of March 15, 2007, motion carried.

Ms. Skov presented the Board with an Application for a Conditional Use Permit submitted by Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative and Great River Energy located in Section 18 of North Germany Township. She stated that the Planning Commissioner recommended approval of such.

RESOLUTION

Commissioner Harrison moved that the following Resolution be adopted:

RESOLVED: That the County Board approves issuance of the following Conditional Use Permit:

Todd Wadena R E A application for Conditional Use Permit to permit a 61 foot pole with mounted antennae, for a total height of 63 feet, for the purpose of updating the communications system for the existing substation with the following condition:

- 1.) That all of the required setbacks are strictly adhered to.

And with the following findings of fact:

- 1.) The requested use will not create an unreasonable excessive burden on the existing roads or other utilities;
- 2.) The requested use is compatible with the surrounding area and will not significantly depreciate nearby properties;
- 3.) The requested use, in the opinion of the Planning Commissioner, is reasonable related to the existing land use and environment; and
- 4.) The requested use is not in conflict with the Wadena County Comprehensive Plan.

On property described as: North 165 feet of the East 264 feet of the Northeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (NE ¼ NE ¼), Section 18, Township 136 North, Range 34 West, North Germany Township, located in an A-3 General Agriculture District.

Commissioner Waldahl seconded the motion and the same carried unanimously.

Adopted this 3rd day of April, 2007.

Attest: _____
Charleen West, Auditor/Treasurer William Stearns, Chairman

Chairman Stearns called to accept statements from those in opposition or those in favor of the Application and none were received.

Motion carried.

Mike Carlstrom, DNR Area Forest Supervisor, Park Rapids, and Joel Holden, DNR Area Forestry, Nimrod, came before the Board regarding Horse Trail Pass Thru Funds. Mr. Carlstrom informed the Board that the MN Horse Council sponsored legislation to create funds for a Horse Trail Grant-in-Aid Trail System, similar to a snowmobile or cross country ski pass. He pointed out that Wadena County would be one of the few counties in the State who were ready to put a trail down. Mr. Carlstrom stated that he would need to write a permit for the trail to exist, request a grant and return to the Board for approval. Mr. Carlstrom stated that the Wadena Posse supports the concept of having the marked horse trail and will maintain the horse shelter.

Commissioner Harrison commented that the good thing about this action would be that hopefully no additional trails would be lost.

RESOLUTION

Commissioner Harrison adoption of the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, Wadena County serves as a sponsor of various recreational trails that are part of the State of Minnesota Grant-in-Aid Trail System; and

WHEREAS, the construction and maintenance of these trails are funded through Minnesota Trail Assistance Program Grants issued with the approval of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Wadena County agrees to sponsor said trail at no cost to the county.

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THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Wadena County agrees to sponsor the Wadena County Posse in a joint project with the DNR, with Wadena County to delegate the maintenance of the horse shelter to the Wadena County Posse, at no cost to the County.

Commissioner Schermerhorn seconded the motion for the adoption of the Resolution and it was declared adopted upon the following vote:

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Ayes 5 Nays 0

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
) ss.
County of Wadena County)

I, Charleen West, elected Auditor/Treasurer of the County of Wadena, do hereby certify the above is full, true, and correct copy of a Resolution duly adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Wadena at its regular meeting held on April 3, 2007 .

Charleen West, Auditor/Treasurer

Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Skov and the Board reviewed Ottertail Commissioners correspondence regarding the Perham Incinerator. She stated that the counties have no ownership of the Incinerator, but have the responsibility of repairs, while the City of Perham is the owner of the plant. Ms. Skov pointed out that the City of Perham wants to expand and that the four Counties need to meet to discuss the situation. She explained that the expansion would require 35,000 tons to 52,000 tons of garbage per year, however, Wadena County does not have any additional garbage to contribute.

Commissioner Meyer questioned why there would be a need for the expansion and commented that the population had dropped.

Commissioner Waldahl stated that Wadena County had no need, nor benefit from the expansion, but the people that do have the need, need to make a decision.

Ms. Skov stated that she felt a Joint Powers Agreement was needed whether the expansion was done or not.

The Board agreed that a Joint Powers Agreement was necessary.

Joel Ullring, Highway Engineer, introduced Jeff Adolphson, new Assistant County Engineer, to the Board and requested approval to adjust his starting date to March 20, 2007.

Motion by Meyer, seconded by Schermerhorn, to adjust the starting date for Jeff Adolphson, new Assistant County Engineer, to March 20, 2007, motion carried.

The Board set May 3, 2007, for a tour to view the County's transportation system, which will assist Mr. Ullring in developing the County's Five Year Transportation Capital Improvement Program.

Mr. Ullring informed the Board that he had been contacted by the City of Menahga regarding the work scheduled on CSAH 21 for 2008. He stated that he was not aware of funds available for the project, however he will be meeting with the City to discuss the situation.

Mr. Ullring updated the Board on the remodeling at the Highway Department.

Chairman Stearns closed the Adjourned Board of Commissioners Meeting at 11:58 a.m. for the purpose of discussing a County personnel issue. Those in attendance were Chairman Stearns, Commissioners Meyer, Schermerhorn, Harrison, Waldahl, Joel Ullring, Highway Engineer, Jeff Adolfson, Assistant Highway Engineer and Char West, Auditor/Treasurer.

Chairman Stearns opened the Adjourned Board of Commissioners Meeting at 12:09 p.m.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Harrison, to accept the resignation of Greg Maaninga, Highway Maintenance employee, as of April 2, 2007 and to pay him all benefits due as of said date, motion carried.

Motion by Harrison, seconded by Meyer, to authorize the Highway Engineer to post the Highway Maintenance position vacancy within the Highway Department 49er's Union and then advertise, if necessary, motion carried.

Commissioner Stearns informed the Board that he had received a letter from Aldrich Township stating opposition to the issue of raising the gas tax.

Mr. Ullring updated the Board on road improvements in McGivern Park.

Motion by Meyer, seconded by Schermerhorn, to adjourn the Board of Commissioners Meeting at 12:20 p.m., motion carried.

Charleen West, Auditor/Treasurer

William Stearns, Chairman

