

WADENA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS BOARD MEETING
JULY 19, 2007/9:00 A.M.

The Wadena County Board of Commissioners Meeting was held on Thursday, July 19, 2007, at the Wadena County Courthouse in the Courthouse Auditorium 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 Mary Harrison, Orville Meyer, Dave Schermerhorn and Lane Waldahl.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Harrison, to approve the Agenda as amended to include j.) DAC Assessment, motion carried.

Motion by Harrison, seconded by Schermerhorn, to approve the July 3, 2007 Board Minutes as presented, motion carried.

Janine Hudson, Social Services employee, came before the Board to question what type of parenting program Wadena County endorsed and what kinds of things she does on her personal time could cause her to be reprimanded or fired?

Chairman Stearns informed Ms. Hudson that the Board of Commissioners did not deal with those kinds of questions and recommended she contact her Supervisor or Department Head.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Schermerhorn, to approve the Blueberry Pines Golf Club, Inc., Liquor License Application Renewal for the period of August 1, 2007 through July 31, 2008, motion carried.

Motion by Harrison, seconded by Schermerhorn, to approve the Pine Cove Inn Liquor License Application Renewal for the period of August 1, 2007 through July 31, 2008, contingent upon the receipt of the certificate of insurance and County Attorney approval, motion carried.

Motion by Schermerhorn, seconded by Waldahl, to approve the Mid-Minnesota Draft Horse Association's 3.2 Percent Malt Liquor License Application for the Bull Bash Event during the period of August 31, 2007 to September 2, 2007, motion carried.

Motion by Harrison, seconded by Waldahl, to approve the Sebeka American Legion Post #456 Legal Gambling Permit Application for the period of November 1, 2007 to October 31, 2009, motion carried.

Motion by Schermerhorn, seconded by Meyer, to approve the expenditure of \$5,000 to replenish the Courthouse Postage Machine, motion carried.

Motion by Harrison, seconded by Schermerhorn, to approve the payment of \$7,650.00 for

the second half 2007 Allocation to the Wadena County Agricultural Society, motion carried.

Char West, Auditor/Treasurer, presented the Board with a policy for the “Timely Handling of Recordable Documents”. She stated this policy was required in MN Statute 357.182, subd. 3 as it pertained to the Recorder’s Compliance Fund. Ms. West added that she and County Recorder Solidad Henriksen were recommending approval of such.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Schermerhorn, to adopt the “Timely Handling of Recordable Documents” policy as outlined in MN Statute 357.182, subd. 3, and recommended by the County Recorder and County Auditor/Treasurer, motion carried.

Commissioner Meyer had requested the Sebeka DAC special assessment be included on the Agenda for discussion.

Ms. West reported that she had discussed the Sebeka Day Activity Center (DAC) special assessment with Silvia Silvers, DAC Director, and it was agreed that a meeting should be set up between Ms. Silvers and she, with the recommendation that Commissioner Meyer also attend to provide background information as to what buildings and property were owned by the DAC and what were owned by the County. She added that it was suggested that the DAC share in the cost of the assessment due to the benefit being to the DAC. Ms. West also reported that Ms. Silvers informed her that the previous DAC Board had previously requested the purchase of the property for \$1 from Wadena County but that the current DAC Board did not share the same feelings.

Further Board discussion was held regarding the ownership of the Sebeka DAC buildings and land.

Board direction was for Commissioner Meyer, Auditor/Treasurer West and possibly previous Commissioner Paul Nolte meet with the DAC Director to discuss the upcoming utilities special assessment of the property. The Board requested property documentation be provided by the Auditor/ Treasurer.

Jeff Adolphson, Assistant Highway Engineer, came to the Board in the absence of Joel Ullring, Highway Engineer. Mr. Adolphson stated that according to State Statute 216G.07, Subd. 7, the County was required to designate an inspector to conduct on-site inspections of the MinnCan pipeline construction to determine whether the pipeline was constructed in compliance with the provisions of the law. He added that since the Highway Department has issued utility permits to MinnCan for constructing road crossings and has personnel available to provide this service, Joel Ullring, Highway Engineer, was recommending the Board designate the County Engineer or his representative to be the County’s inspector for the upcoming project. Mr. Adolphson added that MinnCan had already deposited funds with the Auditor/Treasurer for compensation of the service.

The Board questioned Mr. Adolphson as to the procedure and County’s responsibility.

Mr. Adolphson replied that the Highway Department would be inspecting county road crossings

and then would also be the contact person for any Wadena County resident complaints pertaining to the pipeline installation. He stated that a written log would be kept to document these complaints.

Commissioner Stearns expressed concern that an Inspector from the Highway Department would be responsible to maintain a written log concerning all comments and complaints made by land owners whose land was being crossed by the Pipeline as well as the funds received not being sufficient to cover the time spent.

Motion by Meyer, seconded by Schermerhorn, to designate the County Engineer, or his representative, to be the Wadena County Inspector of the MinnCan Pipeline, as per M.S. 216G.07, Subd.7, motion carried.

Mr. Adolphson updated the Board on the CR 114 and the CSAH 26 projects as well as the Highway Maintenance Department projects on CR 155 and CR 142.

Motion by Harrison, seconded by Schermerhorn, to approve the Board of Commissioner bills in the amount of \$141,540.99, motion carried.

Molly Costen, Wadena Soil & Water Conservation District, came before the Board to update them on the upcoming Conservation and Wildlife Expo that would be held on August 25th and 26th at the Wadena Fairgrounds.

The Board requested the Auditor/Treasurer provide them with a GIS map indicating the County owned property at the Fairgrounds.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Schermerhorn, to accept the schedule of events for the Conservation & Wildlife Expo, acknowledge the shooting events and request a certificate of insurance naming the County as an additional insured, motion carried.

Board recessed at 10:00 a.m.

Board reconvened at 10:10 a.m.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Schermerhorn, to approve payment from Wadena County Public Health to the Wadena Police Department in the amount of \$400.00 and Wadena County Sheriff's Department in the amount of \$400.00 for Alcohol and Tobacco Compliance Checks and payment to Mary Hansen in the amount of \$720.00 for Teaching Services, motion carried.

The Board set August 14, 2007, 9:00 a.m. for the next Budget Meeting and requested Sheriff Carr's attendance to review the proposed budget for the additional deputy sheriff position.

Mary Theurer, NJPA, came before the Board to present the October 1, 2007 Health Insurance renewal rates. Ms. Theurer pointed out that there would be a 15 month renewal period that would

return the renewal date back to January 1st, as requested by members. She reviewed the benefit changes which reflected no monetary value, reported that Diabetic supplies would be changed to a pharmacy benefit and that NJPA had reimbursed members who had to pay more. She stated that the over all NJPA pool premium increase was 12.8% in 2007, a minimum 15 month renewal increase was approximately a minimum of 10% with a maximum of 29% which indicated Wadena County being at the minimum of a 10.39% premium increase. Ms. Theurer informed the Board that the Health Insurance Committee had previously requested information on how to lower premiums. She reviewed an informational sheet which reflected a 1 ½ to 1 ¾ % reduction in premiums by increasing prescription co-pays.

Ms. West stated that the Health Insurance Committee's recommendation was for her to contact the union agents as to whether they would consider the change in prescription co-pay and if the unions were in agreement, the employees would be surveyed. She stated that the Health Insurance Committee would have information to the Board by the August 7, 2007 meeting.

Deana Skov, Zoning/Parks/Solid Waste Director, presented the Board with an agenda that included her request for approval of the final plat of Pine Ridge Estates located in Thomastown Township.

Motion by Meyer, seconded by Schermerhorn, to approve the Pine Ridge Estates Final Plat, submitted by Harold Blonigen, located in Section 36 of Thomastown Township, motion carried.

Ms. Skov informed the Board that the Perham Incinerator Coordinating Committee had met with Bongards regarding the Perham Resource Recovery Facility to see what options would be feasible to lessen expenses. She added that a letter had been received back from Bongard's indicating they very much appreciated the Committees offer to help. Ms Skov also reported that all Counties agreed that a true Joint Powers should be formed to own the facility and that the Perham City Council had met and appeared to be willing to work with the counties.

Ms. Skov updated the Board on the possibility of used oil, anti-freeze, and oil filter recycling. She proposed a 12' x 20' concrete slab to place a dual walled tank on with the possibility of a roof over the top for a total cost under \$5,000 per station. Ms. Skov also proposed one for the Landfill and one for the Hazardous Household Waste building in Sebeka at the County Garage. She stated that it would be fenced with the ability to gate and lock it if the use of it was abused.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Schermerhorn, to authorize the Zoning/Parks/Solid Waste Director to obtain quotes for the construction of concrete slabs with a roof, to be used for the disposal of used oil, anti-freeze and oil filters, motion carried.

Ms. Skov also proposed the purchase of recycling bins for glass, tin cans and cardboard recycling containers that would be placed at Thomastown Township Hall, Wadena City Water Tower, one in Sebeka or Menahga with an empty bin for the Transfer Station to exchange with the full one. She stated that her request would be for four 30 yard recycling bins and four 30 yard flattened cardboard recycling bins at a cost of \$29,300. Ms. Skov added that she had included in her 2008 budget the purchase of additional bins for Nimrod, Verndale and Aldrich,

which would then eliminate Township bins.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Harrison, to authorize the Zoning/Parks/Solid Waste Director to proceed with the purchase of four 30 yard recycling bins and four cardboard recycling bins at a cost of \$29,300.00, motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Skov updated the Board on the progress of the permit for Demo Landfill/Transfer Station, which was near final approval, and reported that the work at Tree Farm Landing was near completion.

Commissioner Reports:

Commissioner Harrison: DNR ATV Meeting- State Statute requires assessment of all trails proposed for Wadena County

Commissioner Waldahl: Ottertail Community Action
Todd Wadena Community Corrections
Bell Hill Recovery Center

Commissioner Stearns: Perham Incinerator

The Board relocated to the Courthouse Auditorium at 11:25 a.m. for the remainder of the meeting.

Tom Hannon, Central Minnesota Regional Advisory Board, presented the Board with a power point presentation pertaining to the development and purpose of the West Central Regional Advisory Committee. Also present were Sheriff Mike Carr, Deputy Sheriff Eric Sonnenburg, Jail Administrator Tom Speed and County Attorney Kyra Ladd.

Mr. Hannon informed the Board that 2007 legislation required all emergency response units change radio frequencies to 800 mhz with the State paying for the backbone (capital costs) and local units of government paying for the operating costs. He added that the legislature also authorized the development of regional advisory committees to apply for and receive state grant funds to implement this transition.

Mr. Hannon provided the Board with background information on the development of the Regional Advisory Board. He stated that Stearns County and the City of St. Cloud formed the initial committee in August 2005 and currently 18 counties and 1 city were members of the group. Mr. Hannon also pointed out that the Central Minnesota Regional Advisory group was the only organized group in Minnesota, but several other Regions were in the development stages of organizing similar groups. He informed the Board that the Regional Advisory Committee had developed seven county plans, developed regional plans that included schools and hospitals, created planning opportunities for 8 additional counties, adopted interim standards and policies, applied for and received 2006/2007 grants and completed a Radio Board Joint Powers Agreement, which has been submitted for approval. Mr. Hannon added that the

Regional Radio Board was created June 20, 2007, has elected officers and has begun organization by setting meeting schedules for the 5th Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. He pointed out that a special meeting had been set for July 25, 2007 to develop a budget, by-laws and begin work on policies and procedures. He stated that each county shall appoint one Commissioner, as well as a representative to the Regional Advisory Committee, the Regional User Committee and the Regional Owners and Operators Committee

Mr. Hannon informed the Board that Sheriff Mike Carr had applied for and was accepted into the West Central Regional Advisory Board and Deputy Eric Sonnenburg had been appointed to the Regional Advisory Committee

Sheriff Carr stated that his recommendation was to join the West Central Regional Advisory Board and adopt the Joint Powers Agreement as presented. He added that the West Central Board was the only one in existence at this time and had been in operation for 18 months. Sheriff Carr also pointed out that the Advisory Board currently had grant funds available to assist Wadena County.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Harrison, to adopt the West Central Regional Advisory Board Joint Powers Agreement;

Kyra Ladd, County Attorney, reported the she had reviewed the Joint Powers Agreement which appeared to be fairly standard. She added that it was not of significant concern, but the County would not be able to leave the Advisory Board until after giving a one year notice.

Motion carried.

Chairman Stearns appoint Commissioner Lane Waldahl to the West Central Advisory Board.

Motion by Meyer, seconded by Harrison, to adjourn the Board of Commissioners Meeting at 12:15 p.m., motion carried.

Charleen West, Auditor/Treasurer

William Stearns, Chairman