

WADENA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
AUGUST 7, 2007/9:00 A.M.

The Wadena County Board of Commissioners Meeting was held on Tuesday, August 7 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 Orville Meyer, Lane Waldahl, Dave Schermerhorn and Mary Harrison.

Motion by Schermerhorn, seconded by Harrison, to approve the Agenda as amended to include: 9:45 a.m.-Rudy Yglesias, Maintenance Superintendent, Carpet Cleaning Machine, motion carried.

The Board reviewed the July 10, 2007 Special Board Meeting Minutes. Several typographical errors were pointed out and will be corrected.

Motion by Harrison, seconded by Schermerhorn, to approve the July 10, 2007 Board Meeting Minutes, as corrected, and approved the July 19, 2007 Board Meeting Minutes, as presented, motion carried.

Joel Ulring, Highway Engineer, came before the Board and presented them with an agenda. He reminded the Board that J.D. Offutt had previously requested the County to review options for a possible 10 ton access route to their facility in Staples. Mr. Ulring noted that Braun Intertec had completed testing and evaluation of possible routes which included portions of CSAH 2, CSAH 26, CSAH 30 and CSAH 55 in Wadena County and CSAH 43 in Todd County and that the results showed the routes all capable of withstanding a 10 ton axle load during the spring thaw period with exception to the portion of CSAH 26 just north of Highway 10. His recommendation, based on testing and report by Braun Intertec, was for the Board to declare the 10 ton truck route to be CSAH 55 from Highway 10 north to CSAH 2 and CSAH 2 from CSAH 55 to CSAH 30.

RESOLUTION

Commissioner Meyer offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

WHEREAS: Wadena County desires to promote economic development within the County and meet the needs of those businesses depending on trucking to move their goods and provide services while protecting the county's investment in transportation infrastructure (roads and bridges), and

WHEREAS: The County has had a request to provide a 10 ton, all-season route north of Staples, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Wadena County Board of Commissioners hereby requests that the Minnesota Department of Transportation conduct a traffic speed study to determine if the current 30 MPH speed zone should be increased. The study area should begin at State Highway 10 and continue north to the end of the restricted speed area, approximately 0.65 miles.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Wadena County Engineer or his representative shall be the contact person for this study.

Commissioner Harrison seconded the motion and the same carried.

Adopted at Wadena, Minnesota.

ATTEST: _____
Charleen West, Auditor-Treasurer
Wadena County, Minnesota

Bill Stearns, Chairman

Mr. Ullring informed the Board that he had met with and drafted an agreement with David Kraemer to perform construction inspection services for the restoration of the Wadena Depot Building. He pointed out that the cost for this service (\$5,000) was totally the responsibility of Partners for a Health Wadena Region and that the Memorandum of Understanding with Partners has been amended to reflect this. Mr. Ullring also informed the Board that he had just received information from the EEOC Office granting clearance of the contractor. He added that once the contract was signed and in place, the County would be able to seek reimbursement of the \$50,000 that the County put up front to begin the project.

Mr. Ullring presented the Board, for their review, a draft of the "City of Staples Lease Agreement" outlining the housing of a County plow truck at the new Staples Public Works Facility. He pointed out that this was a possible step in moving the truck from the Verndale facility and closing that facility down. Mr. Ullring added that the lease agreement was a 5-year renewable lease for one stall; a cost had not yet been established and it was hoped that the Agreement would be in place by September 2007.

The Board informed Mr. Ullring of several requests they had received from County residents pertaining to culverts.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Harrison, to approve the second half 2007 Allocation to the Initiative Foundation in the amount of \$1,000, motion carried.

Lee Brekke, Assessor, informed the Board that Assessor's Office Appraiser, Jim Hokenson, had reported to him that he would be retiring as of August 17, 2007. Mr. Brekke requested Board authorization to fill the position.

Motion by Meyer, seconded by Schermerhorn, to accept the resignation of Jim Hokenson, Assessor's Office Appraiser, with regrets, as of August 17, 2007, motion carried.

Motion by Meyer, seconded by Schermerhorn, to properly fill the vacancy of Appraiser in the Assessor's Department through posting and advertising, if necessary, motion carried.

Mr. Brekke requested Board input as to whether the position should be a "trainee position" or a "licensed appraiser". He added that time lines was his concern.

Commissioner Harrison commented that she was still "taking continual flack" about the County going to True County Assessing. She felt the residents would appreciate the position being offered to a licensed appraiser, if available.

The Board further discussed whether a certified appraiser or trainee would be preferred and recommended the previous motion be amended to allow the Assessor to post and advertise the position of a Certified Minnesota Assessor.

Motion by Meyer, seconded by Schermerhorn, to amend the previous motion to state "to properly fill the vacancy of Certified Minnesota Assessor in the Assessor's Department through posting and advertising, if necessary", motion carried.

Rudy Yglesias, Maintenance Superintendent, informed the Board of the need to purchase a carpet extractor which would be purchased out of the equipment fund. He stated that the Social Services building currently has problems with carpet cleaning and was charged \$700 which they have stated they cannot afford to pay every other month. Mr. Yglesias added that they would pay the Maintenance Department \$1,100 to \$1,500 per year to have them clean the carpet on a regular basis and that he would like the funds to go back into the Small Equipment Fund rather than General Revenue. He stated that the equipment could be used in all three Departments and that the price for a demo model from Steins, Inc. would be a total of \$2,976.68 including tax.

The Board reviewed Mr. Yglesias handout information, discussed the need for the carpet cleaning machine as well as available staff to run the machine.

Motion by Meyer, seconded by Schermerhorn, to authorize the Maintenance Superintendent to purchase a demo carpet extractor plus wand from Steins, Inc. for \$2,976.68, including tax, motion carried.

Mr. Yglesias informed the Board that he had been notified by the City of Wadena that three trees on the north side of the Courthouse needed to come down due to Dutch elm disease. He added that if the trees were removed the County could request angle parking along the City street, which would increase parking spaces. Mr. Yglesias presented the Board with a plan for angle parking and questioned whether the Board would like him to

request such from the City.

Commissioner Meyer questioned whether it was Dutch elm disease or drought stress?

Mr. Yglesias stated that it had been determined that it was Dutch elm disease but the City did not require that the trees be removed at this time. He added that the sidewalk was heaving.

Commissioner Harrison stated her concern over cutting down the trees and that she would only approve it if new trees would be planted.

Mr. Yglesias responded that additional trees would be planted. He stated that the City would do what the County requested. He questioned whether the Board wanted him to approach the City as to the possibility of angle parking?

The Board recommended he not approach the City regarding angle parking.

The Board recessed at 10:00 a.m.

The Board reconvened at 10:15 a.m.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Harrison, to set the Truth-In-Taxation Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m., December 6, 2007 and Continuation Hearing at 7:00 p.m., December 18, 2007, if necessary, in the Courthouse Auditorium, motion carried.

Commissioner Meyer informed the Board that he and Ms. West met with Silvia Silvers, Day Activity Center (DAC) Director, who informed them that the DAC Board had previously voted not to purchase the property from the County but they have now reconsidered and are requesting to purchase the property for \$1 and assume the upcoming special assessment cost.

Chairman Stearns questioned what steps the County would need to take to dispose of County property?

Commissioner Meyer responded that the County Attorney had previously researched this question and there was documentation that the County could transfer the property to another non-profit organization.

Commissioner Harrison stated she felt it would be more of a liability to the County over the years and it would be much easier for the DAC if they owned the entire complex outright.

Commissioner Meyer comment that originally the DAC needed that property to get their bonding adequately backed because they were going to add on.

Board consensus was to move ahead and to contact the County Attorney to present the Board with the necessary papers.

Ms. West presented the Board with a handout outlining the County's October 1, 2007 health insurance renewal rates that reflected a 12.75% increase and proposed cafeteria dollars which reflected the 50% health insurance premium increase, as stated in union contract.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Schermerhorn, to approve the October 1, 2007 Health Insurance Renewal Rates, as presented, motion carried.

Motion by Schermerhorn, seconded by Waldahl, to approve the October 1, 2007 Cafeteria Dollars reflecting the 50% health insurance premium increase, as presented, motion carried.

Motion by Harrison, seconded by Meyer, to approve the October 1, 2007 renewal of Life, Long Term and Short Term Disability, Accidental Death and Dismemberment policies, as presented by Ochs, Inc., motion carried.

The Board reviewed a notice received from the Minnesota Counties Insurance Trust (MCIT) informing them of the 2007 Dividend of \$78,224.

The Board reviewed the 2006 Population and Household Estimates for Wadena County, which was prepared by the Minnesota State Demographic Center.

The Board reviewed the Todd Wadena Community Corrections Quarterly Financial Report.

Motion by Meyer, seconded by Schermerhorn, to approve the transfer of MinnCan Inspection Funds in the amount of \$18,000.00 from the General Revenue Fund to the Highway Fund, motion carried.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Schermerhorn, to approve payment of the Stoneman Oil invoice in the amount of \$19,911.21, motion carried.

The Board reviewed a GIS map of the Wadena County Fair Grounds and requested additional research be done as to how the property related to Highway 10.

Chairman Stearns requested Board consideration of rescheduling the August 14th Budget Meeting as it would be more productive following the Social Service Board Meeting to be held on August 21st at which time their 2008 budget would be presented.

The Board approved the rescheduling of the August 14, 2007 Budget Meeting to August 28, 2007, at 9:00 a.m.

The Board reviewed the Department of Corrections Inspection Report.

Motion by Harrison, seconded by Schermerhorn, to approve payment of the Board of Commissioner bills in the amount of \$138,906.87, motion carried.

The Board recessed at 10:50 a.m.

The Board reconvened at 11:02 p.m.

Deana Skov, Zoning/Parks/Solid Waste Director, presented the Board with the July 19, 2007, Planning Commission minutes for approval.

Motion by Meyer, seconded by Schermerhorn, to approve the July 19, 2007 Planning Commission Meeting Minutes, motion carried.

Ms. Skov presented the Board with two Conditional Use Permit applications, from Todd Wadena Electric and Great River Energy. Mark Christianson, Todd Wadena Electric representative, was present to represent the applications. Ms. Skov informed the Board that the Planning Commission had recommended approval of both applications. She pointed out that the first resolution was to permit them to erect a 61 foot pole in Thomastown Township.

Chairman Stearns called for those in the audience for or against the Resolution. No response for or against was given.

RESOLUTION

Commissioner Waldahl 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 wood pole with mounted antennae for the purpose of updating the communications system for the existing substation 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 Commission, is reasonably related to the existing land use and environment;
- 4) The requested use is consistent with the Wadena County Land Use Controls Ordinance;
- 5) The requested use is not in conflict with the Wadena County Comprehensive Plan; and

6) The requested use will not create an unreasonably adverse affect because of noise, odor, glare, or general unsightliness for nearby property owners.

on property described as: Part of the Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter (SW1/4 NW1/4) described as follows: Commencing at the Southwest Corner of said Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter (SW1/4 NW1/4) and assuming the West line of said Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter (SW1/4 NW1/4) bears North; then South 88 degrees 53 minutes 11 seconds East, along the South line of said Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter (SW1/4 NW1/4), 393.30 feet to the point of beginning of the land to be described; thence North 1 degree 07 minutes 43 seconds East 560.44 feet; thence South 88 degrees 53 minutes 11 seconds East, parallel with said South line 349.74 feet; thence South 1 degree 07 minutes 43 seconds West 299.82 feet; thence North 88 degrees 53 minutes 11 seconds West, parallel with said South line 102.40 feet; thence South 1 degree 07 minutes 43 seconds West 260.62 feet to the intersection with said South line; thence North 88 degrees 53 minutes 11 seconds West, along said South line, 247.34 feet to the point of beginning. Subject to easement for road purposes over the South 110 feet, Section 25, Township 134 North, Range 33 West, Thomastown Township, located in an A-3 General Agriculture District.

Commissioner Harrison seconded the motion and the same carried unanimously.

Adopted this 7th day of August 2007.

Attest: _____
Charleen West, Auditor/Treasurer Chairperson

Ms. Skov stated that the second application was to permit Todd Wadena Electric and Great River Energy to erect a 92 foot pole and antennae in Orton Township.

Commissioner Stearns called for those in the audience to speak for or against the Resolution. No response for or against was given.

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 92 foot steel pole with mounted antennae for the purpose of updating the communications system for the existing substation with the following findings of fact:

- 1) The requested use will not create an unreasonable excessive burden on the existing roads or other utilities;

Commissioner Harrison questioned whether there were figures to show the cost difference between the two options?

Ms. Skov replied that there would be a meeting the following day to discuss this further, but she wanted to get the Board's feelings regarding the options. She added that if Todd, Ottetail and Wadena would be involved in the Joint Powers new contracts and policies would be drawn up similar to what was being done now.

Commissioner Meyer questioned whether Option #2 would jeopardize current customers.

Ms. Skov responded 'No', the City of Perham would continue to want to purchase steam.

Chairman Stearns and Ms. Skov commented there would be no cash exchange and the counties would assume the revenues from the facility which would cover the bond expense every year.

Rin Porter, Verndale Sun, questioned whether Becker County was interested in coming into the deal?

Commissioner Stearns replied that Becker County continued to show interest.

Board consensus was to support Option #2 - Joint Powers owns and operates the Perham Incinerator, which would include the hiring of a new manager and new accountant for the facility.

Commissioner Reports:

Commissioner Waldahl - Law Library meeting with computer hookup open to the public
- 800 MHz – Region Radio Board – Handout Budget

Commissioner Harrison - Kitchigami Library has a grant for an outside person to come in and work with strategic planning for the Regional Kitchigami Library System
- Wadena County Fair - roughly the attendance was 5,500 people and appeared to brake even. It looks like the Fair was a success.
- Letter from Clarence Horsager sharing his concern regarding the 4-H Coordinator being allowed to go to the State Fair.
- Rendezvous this weekend

Commissioner Stearns - Perham Incinerator
- Highway Liaison meeting

Commissioner Schermerhorn - Maintenance Committee Meeting

- Commissioner Meyer
- Council on Aging
 - MCIT
 - South Country Health Alliance– no concrete plan for expansion – new CEO

Motion by Meyer, seconded by Schermerhorn, to adjourn the Board of Commissioners Meeting at 11:50 a.m., motion carried.

Charleen West, Auditor/Treasurer

William Stearns, Chairman