

WADENA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
SEPTEMBER 2, 2008, 9:00 A.M.

The Wadena County Board of Commissioners Meeting was held on Tuesday, September 2, 2008, 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 Orville Meyer and the pledge of allegiance to the flag was said.

Also present: Commissioners Lane Waldahl, Dave Schermerhorn, Mary Harrison and William Stearns, HR Consultant Mike Gibson and Auditor/Treasurer Char West.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Schermerhorn, to approve the day's Agenda as amended to include f.) Primary Election Canvas Board, motion carried.

Motion by Harrison, seconded by Waldahl, to approve the Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes of August 21, 2008, as presented, motion carried.

Richard Mettler, New Pathways, came before the Board to provide information regarding the 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness in the 14-County area in Central Minnesota, which included Wadena County. He also presented the Board with a Resolution to consider for adoption.

Mr. Mettler stated that HUD provided the criteria for the Program and pointed out that a 10-year plan to end Homelessness was part of the Program. He listed the many members on the Continuing Care Implementation Team. He stated that the objectives were to explain and determine the needs and issues of Rural Homelessness and to utilize the tools to increase awareness and support from both local and State officials. Mr. Mettler reviewed Wadena County statistics which showed that there were 14.1% homelessness families and 14% who were living below poverty; the 2005 census indicated the unemployment rate in Wadena County at 5% compared with 4.3% in the State and the cost of living for residents living within Region 5 to afford a rental unit for a family of three needed an hourly rate of \$14.65.

Commissioner Waldahl stated that Stearns and Wadena County had started working with the RAP Program which involved prisoners who were looking for jobs and homes. He asked if someone from the RAP Board could represent Wadena County in the Homelessness Program.

Mr. Mettler responded that would work well.

Chairman Meyer asked for the Board's wishes on the Resolution.

Commissioner Waldahl clarified that this Resolution reflected support of the program and not a request for funds.

Mr. Mettler responded that the Resolution only requested support of the Program.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Schermerhorn, to approve the following Resolution:

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A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE 10-YEAR PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS

For the 14-County Central Minnesota Region

By the Wadena County Board (Commission as the case may be)

WHEREAS, Richard Mettler, New Pathways has presented a Plan to the Wadena County Board (Commission) to end rural homelessness in the 14-County Central Minnesota Region consisting of Benton, Cass, Chisago, Crow Wing, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Pine, Sherburne, Stearns, Todd, Wadena and Wright Counties. The plan sets forth goals and a plan to follow in preventing rural homelessness that mirrors the State of Minnesota's Business plan to End Homelessness.

WHEREAS, the Wadena County supports this proposed Plan; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Plan addresses the concerns and needs of the County of Wadena and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Wadena County will benefit by supporting the collaborative effort to reduce homelessness in their community.

WHEREAS, the County anticipates that with the combined efforts of various housing agencies, non-profits, along with others, this Plan will be successful.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wadena County Board (or Commission) supports the 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness for the 14-County Central Minnesota region.

Adopted this 2nd day of September 2008.

Charleen West, Auditor/Treasurer

Orville Meyer, Chairman

Motion carried.

Jeff Nardello, President of the Wadena County Ag Society, came before the Board to state his and other Ag Society Members concern over an article and editorial in the Pioneer Journal pertaining to the cost of the County Fair. He pointed out that no one on the Fair Board had any personal gain by being on the Board and that they all worked extremely hard.

Commissioner Meyer responded that he was just questioning whether the County could afford \$40,000 for the County Fair and whether it was worth it.

Mr. Nardello reported that attendance had gone up the past two years. He added that there were only a couple things that Wadena County provided taxpayers basically free of charge that had a positive influence on their lives; the Fair was free and if we put a gate fee on no one would show up. Mr. Nardello pointed out that they had been given \$25,000 the previous year for a building fund which was greatly appreciated; the buildings are in better shape, but not in good shape. Mr. Nardello stated that the reason Kris Robison, 4-H Coordinator, was also in attendance was

that 4-H was tied to the Fair.

Ms. Robison informed the Board that there were 186 4-H Members this year and of those, 147 Members exhibited. She added that of the kids that exhibited in Wadena County, 94 were old enough to exhibit at the State Fair and 49 actually exhibited at the State Fair. Ms. Robison pointed out that the Food Stand, which was one of the main fund-raisers for scholarships and educational opportunities for the 4-H kids, was only held at the Fair and was one day less this year. She added that if we did not have a County Fair there would not be a place to exhibit the animals and it would cost to rent a facility. Ms. Robison stated that the 4-H Building was utilized throughout the year for rentals, garage sales and 4-H meetings.

Commissioner Harrison commented that the figure of \$40,000 that had been indicated to run the Fair was misleading. She added that \$15,000 had been given to the Ag Society and \$25,000 to up keep grounds, but if we can increase their ability to earn money maybe the County can decrease the amount of taxpayer contribution. Commissioner Harrison stated that she had heard it only benefits the City of Wadena which was true in some sense, however, the City of Wadena was the cornerstone of the tax base of the entire Wadena County and it was for the taxpayer's benefit to keep that viable.

Mr. Nardello commented that the \$15,000 did not all go for the Fair as there were monthly utility bills, insurance, etc. that had to be paid. He cited that they had been getting a lot more donations outside of Wadena as businesses from surrounding towns had been donating which indicated a renewed interest in the Fair.

Commissioner Harrison further commented that it was a time of very tight budgeting and constraints put on the County. She pointed out that everything that was not mandatory was being considered and unfortunately the Fair was one of them.

Mr. Nardello stated that they did need the \$25,000 for the Building Fund, but if the Fair Board did not receive \$5,000 of that this year, they would make it.

Commissioner Stearns commented the amount given had been increased by \$5,000 for graveling. He cited that the County Health Department was receiving a Chemical Health grant to help curb youth abuse of alcohol; 4-H obviously creates positive experiences for youth so that was one of the things that would be disheartening if the County were to do away with 4-H to save money and have to end up paying a lot more for enforcement and the treatment of people down the line.

Commissioner Waldahl stated that the Board had the need to cut everyone's budget due to some hard times that were coming, probably for the next three to five years; we have to tighten our belts.

Chairman Meyer thanked Mr. Nardello, Ms. Robison and the other supporters of the Fair Board for coming to the Meeting.

Joel Ulring, Highway Engineer, and Jeff Adolphson, Assistant Highway Engineer, came before

the Board at 9:30 a.m. for the Highway Bid Opening of Project SAP 80-623-019 for bituminous overlay of 8.2 miles of a portion of CSAH 12 between CR 167 and CSAH 21 at the north county line. The following bids were opened:

	<u>Bid Amount:</u>
Mark Sand & Gravel Company	\$708,002.60
Knife River Corporation	\$916,177.10
Central Specialties, Inc.	\$809,864.60
Engineer's Estimate	\$834,629.30

Mr. Ullring stated that Mr. Adolphson will review the bids and they will return to the Board before the end of their meeting today with a recommendation.

Mr. Ullring requested Board approval to discuss the possible sale of the Verndale Shop with the Verndale Economic Development Authority (EDA). He stated that Verndale's Mayor, Wayne Stave, informed Mr. Ullring that the Verndale EDA was interested in purchasing the Highway Department property located in Verndale and was researching details involved with this transaction. Mr. Ullring stated that he had requested Mr. Stave to have the EDA submit a formal offer to the County Board.

Commissioner Waldahl commented that he had received several phone calls stating that they felt it was going to cost the County more money to house equipment at Staples and they questioned whether a survey could be done to determine what the cost would be. He added that the callers preferred the County keep the building and that he had informed them that he would pass this information on to the Board.

Chairman Meyer pointed out that the reason for keeping the equipment in Staples was due to the plowing needs, not due to the storage.

Mr. Ullring provided the Board with the following construction updates: CSAH 23 - Class 5 gravel was scheduled to go down this week; paving was expected to follow in mid September and CR 104 – Work was complete.

Mr. Ullring requested Board approval to dispose of Unit #28, a 1987 tandem plow truck via internet disposal, as advised by Commissioner Harrison from information she had received from the NaCo Conference. He pointed out that he would dispose of the truck in a way that was in the best interest of the County.

Motion by Harrison, seconded by Schermerhorn, to approve the disposal of Unit #28 1987 Tandem Plow Truck in a way that would be in the best interest of Wadena County, motion carried.

Nate Mathews, Staples City Administrator, and Kevin Grondahl, Staples Park/Recreation Director, came before the Board to introduce the Trails Plan for Staples. Mr. Mathews stated that they were requesting cooperative efforts from the County as the County looks at road

projects. He pointed out that one of the things in their plan related to cooperative planning with Wadena County and Todd County Commissioners' regarding road projects. Mr. Mathews stated that they had met with Commissioner Meyer and Mr. Ullring several weeks ago about their Trail Project and that they were also working in a cooperative effort with the Central Lakes College and Staples School District on property near the airport.

Mr. Grondahl pointed out that they were aware that the County was considering the reconstruction of CR 2 and would like to try to connect with trails to the City of Staples. He added that this Project was related to the Waterway Trails of the Crow Wing River. Mr. Grondahl presented the Board with a copy of the Staples Trail Plan and reviewed such. He pointed out that the Project had been put into four phases; an area that they would start in 2009 with trail beds being laid in 2008. He pointed out that this would give the County residents a good connection to Old Wadena and McGivern Park.

Mr. Mathews added that one of the overall visions was connecting to the Parks. He stated that they came to show the Board the Plan and encourage support from Wadena and Todd County.

Mr. Ullring pointed out that the safety trails were not on roadways but were stand alone trails.

Commissioner Waldahl questioned if there were funds available through the Highway Department.

Mr. Ullring responded that 10% of the money from Transportation was provided for enhancements such as the Depot Project.

The Board recessed at 10:02 a.m.

The Board reconvened at 10:15 a.m.

Deana Skov, Zoning/Parks/Solid Waste Director, came before the Board to request approval of the August 21, 2008, Planning Commission Minutes.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Harrison, to approve the August 21, 2008, Planning Commission Minutes, motion carried.

Ms. Skov requested approval of a Resolution approving an Application for Rezoning from A-3 General Ag to B-2 General Business District, in Wadena Township, submitted by Corey and Susan Flagg, as recommended by the Planning Commission. Mr. Flagg was in the audience.

Chairman Meyer called for anyone in attendance against the passing of this Resolution; no response. Chairman Meyer called for anyone in attendance in favor of the Resolution; no response.

RESOLUTION

Commissioner Waldahl moved that the following Resolution be adopted:

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RESOLVED: That the County Board orders issuance of the following Petition to Amend the Zoning Ordinance No. 1:

The petition of Corey A. & Susan L. Flagg which would rezone from an A-3 to an B-2 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 because it will continue to be farmed;
- 3) The requested use, in the opinion of the Planning Commission, is reasonably related to the existing land use and environment because it will continue to be farmed and because it is close to Wadena;
- 4) The requested use is consistent with the Wadena County Land Use Control Ordinance; and
- 5) The requested use is not in conflict with the Wadena County Comprehensive Plan.

on property described as: That part of the Southwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (SW1/4 NE1/4) lying North of the Northern Pacific Railroad Right of Way, Section 15, Township 134 North, Range 35 West, Wadena Township, located in an A-3 General Agriculture District.

Commissioner Stearns seconded the motion and the same carried unanimously.

Adopted this 2nd day of September, 2008.

Attest: _____
Charleen West, Auditor / Treasurer Chairperson

Ms. Skov requested approval of a Resolution approving an Application for a Conditional Use Permit to add a real estate office to a building located in Section 9 of Wadena Township submitted by Jonathan Korfe and recommended by the Planning Commission.

Chairman Meyer called for anyone in attendance against the passing of the following Resolution; no response. Chairman Meyer called for anyone in attendance in favor of the following Resolution; no response.

RESOLUTION

Commissioner Waldahl moved that the following Resolution be adopted:

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

Jonathan Lee Korfe application for Conditional Use Permit to permit a portion of the building to be used as a real estate office with the following findings of fact:

- 4) The requested use will create an unreasonably adverse affect because of noise, odor, glare, or general unsightliness for nearby property owners.

on property described as: The North Half of the Northeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (N1/2 NE1/4 NE1/4), Section 21, Township 136 North, Range 34 West, North Germany Township, located in an A-3 General Agriculture District.

Commissioner Harrison seconded the motion and the same carried unanimously.

Adopted this 2nd day of September 2008.

Attest: _____
Charleen West, Auditor/Treasurer Chairperson

Ms. Skov informed the Board that a variance to relocate the outhouse at McGivern Park would be applied for to relocate it from the present location on the south side of the park up to where the actual camping area was. She added that since it was slated for replacement this year, it was decided it would be an ideal time to move it closer to the camp area.

Ms. Skov informed the Board that the City of Perham had questioned whether other counties besides Ottertail, Wadena and Todd were in support of the expansion of the Perham Incinerator. She pointed out that the City of Perham had been informed several times that the expansion was of no benefit to Wadena County; but they were looking to Wadena County for support.

Chairman Meyer questioned whether the City of Perham was looking for support which included financial support.

Ms. Skov responded that it did mean financial support.

Commissioner Stearns added that the City was asking for Wadena County to stay involved, to keep our level of commitment of the garbage the same and then be a part of the refinancing of the whole thing with 12% of 19 million. He pointed out that this would be about the same only we would be a smaller part of the greater debt. Commissioner Stearns stated that he would still like to see a commitment by Becker or Cass County also.

Ms. Skov stated that she felt they were saying that if they could get additional waste, would Wadena County then be in support of expansion and refinancing.

Char West, Auditor/Treasurer reviewed the progress in the development of the Preliminary 2009 Budget, Levy and Special Levies. Also present were Karen Nelson, Public Health, Paul Sailer and Amie Spartz, Social Services, Sheriff Mike Carr, Jean Birch and Tom Speed, Sheriff's Department and Deana Skov, Zoning/Parks/Solid Waste Department. Ms. West stated that she had met with Ms. Spartz, Ms. Birch and Ms. Nelson to review the Special Levy requirements from the Department of Revenue and to see which Levies Wadena County would be eligible for and whether they would benefit the County. She distributed a handout outlining such.

Ms. Nelson reported that she had talked with Joe Mathews of AMC who referred her to Shawn Wink of the Department of Revenue about a Special Levy for the loss in state funding for the Pandemic Flu and the Chemical Health grants. She stated that Mr. Wink had informed her that he had questions regarding both programs and would need more information to determine an answer.

Paul Sailer, Social Services Director, reviewed criteria of the Special Levy for the loss of state funding for Child Support Incentives within the Social Services budget. He added that the County was also eligible for a Special Levy for Child Welfare Targeted Case Management but he did not recommend using this Special Levy.

The Board reviewed information pertaining to the Special Levy for the operation of the County Jail.

Ms. West explained that the County was also eligible for a Special Levy for Sheriff's Department wages and benefits but that after she and Ms. Birch had reviewed the criteria it reflected a loss in income for the County if this Special Levy was claimed.

Ms. West reviewed the criteria and calculation of a Special Levy for Library Services. She stated that she had received the certification from the Department of Education on the minimum County contribution which was \$88,994 based on the Maintenance of Effort and the County's 2007 contribution.

Ms. Nelson explained the Special Levy for Drug Free Community and stated that it included the County match and in-kind. She further explained the Chemical Health Grant was similar other than the match was completely in-kind from outside agencies. She felt that one may not be eligible but felt she should include it for discussions.

Ms. West explained the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Costs, which referred to the Human Society County contribution, and PERA Employer Contribution Rate Increase after 1/1/01; both Special Levies had previously been used.

Ms. West also informed the Board that a Special Levy was available for SCORE under the Solid Waste Fund.

Ms. Skov stated that she had not had time to review the information but felt it may not be eligible.

Ms. Nelson stated that the use of the Special Levies for Public Health would reduce her need to use the Public Health cash balance to balance the 2009 Budget.

Ms. Nelson presented the Board with her agenda. She questioned who from the Board would be attending the 2008 Community Health Conference on October 2, 2008. She stated that the Public Health budget allowed for three people to attend.

Chairman Meyer and Commissioner Harrison responded that they would be available to attend the 2008 Community Health Conference on October 2nd.

Mr. Ullring returned to the Board stating that the bids for Project SAP 80-623-019 had been reviewed and he was recommending award to low bidder Mark Sand & Gravel in the amount of \$708,002.60.

Motion by Schermerhorn, seconded by Waldahl, to approve the low bid of \$708,002.60 from Mark Sand & Gravel Company for Project SAP 80-623-019, as recommended by the Highway Engineer, motion carried.

Mr. Ullring presented the graveling bill in the amount of \$5,277.72 from the Wadena County Highway Department to the Wadena County Ag Society for graveling done at the Fair Grounds. He explained that the agreement was for \$5,000.00 in graveling but that it was found that the graveling would not necessarily solve the problem so they did some bituminous patching and other work. Mr. Ullring added that he had discussed this with Jeff Nardelo, Fair Board Member, who was in agreement of the bill and the payment being made from their 2008 County allocation.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Harrison, to approve the payment of \$5,277.72 to the Wadena County Highway Department from the Wadena County Fair Board Allocation for improvement made to the Fair Grounds, motion carried.

Chairman Meyer informed the Board that his term on the NJPA Board was up the end of 2008 and stated that a candidate for the position needed to be nominated by the Board, which would then be considered and voted on by the NJPA Board.

Motion by Schermerhorn, seconded by Stearns, to nominate Commissioner Waldahl to serve on the NJPA Board of Directors in 2009, motion carried.

Ms. West reviewed the MCIT 2008 Dividend notice in the amount of \$81,171 which reflected a dividend of \$55,844 from the County's Property/Casualty insurance and \$25,327 from the County's Workers' Compensation insurance. She added that MCIT would distribute the funds in December.

Chairman Meyer informed the Board that the date set for the Primary Election Canvas Board to canvas the Primary Election results was September 11, 2008 at 11:30 a.m. He stated that two Commissioners were needed to serve on this Board.

Chairman Meyer appointed Commissioners Waldahl and Schermerhorn to serve on the 2008 Primary Election Canvas Board.

Mike Gibson, HR Consultant, provided the Board with an update on the following items:

- Master Plan – options were still being looked at, nothing new to date.

- Safety issue at the Transfer Station – second bid of \$5,694 for safety equipment was received which was about \$10,000 less than the first bid. Mr. Gibson advised that safety equipment be provided and available even if tarping of the trucks was not done.
- More prices on time clocks were being checked out.
- In the process of having Stromberg and Arvig come in to look at security and will probably have information by the next meeting.
- Negotiations will begin on September 3, 2008. Information from him will be available by the end of the month.

Commissioners Reports:

Commissioner Stearns; -Perham Incinerator which was discussed earlier in the meeting.

Commissioner Schermerhorn; -Region 5 Development Commission.

Commissioner Waldahl; -CHAMPS meeting October 1, 2008
 -West Central Regional Juvenile Board - average beds used for the past ten years has been 19.5 a day; 2008 down to 15.56 a day. The 9/2/08-pg. 11
 2008 budget was based on a 19 day use which will reduce revenues by \$250,000. All counties involved will have to make up the difference. The Director had been advised to make cuts wherever possible in the program which may include reducing staff.

Commissioner Meyer; -West Central Regional Juvenile Board - object of the program was to reduce juvenile delinquency or criminals, which the program had been successful at. There had also been some cuts by the State. Recruiting from other areas of the State was a possibility.
 -Emergency Medical Regional Meeting- seat belt dollars received had decreased - arrests are down possibly due to counties going to Administrative Citations. Wadena County fire fighters and first responders were not utilizing all the funds available to them.

Commissioner Harrison; None

Motion by Schermerhorn, seconded by Harrison, to approve payment of the Board of Commissioners' bills in the amount of \$88,964.66, motion carried.

Chairman Meyer adjourned the Board of Commissioners Meeting at 11:35 a.m.

Charleen West, Auditor/Treasurer

Orville Meyer, Chairman