

WADENA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 9, 2008, 8:30 A.M.

The Wadena County Special Board Meeting was held on Tuesday, September 9, 2008, at the Wadena County Courthouse in the Commissioners Room at 415 Jefferson St. S., Wadena Minnesota. The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chairman Orville Meyer and the pledge of allegiance to the flag was said.

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

Motion by Schermerhorn, seconded by Waldahl, to approve the reimbursement of the July 2008 cash advance of \$80,000 from the Public Health Fund to the General Fund, motion carried.

Motion by Schermerhorn, seconded by Stearns, to amend the day's agenda to include a.) Building Services Director Registration and b.) AMC Short Term Offender's, motion carried.

Chairman Meyer closed the Special Board Meeting at 8:41 a.m. for the purpose of discussing 2009 Wage Negotiation Strategy.

Chairman Meyer re-opened the Special Board Meeting at 9:29 a.m.

Motion by Stearns, seconded by Schermerhorn, to approve payment of the \$75.00 registration fee for Sean Uselman, Building Services Director, to attend the MHCEA Conference, motion carried.

Chairman Meyer recessed the Special Board Meeting at 9:30 a.m. for the purpose of relocating the Meeting to the Wadena County Highway Department.

Chairman Meyer reconvened the Special Board Meeting at 9:45 a.m. at the Wadena County Highway Department, 221 Harry & Rich Dr., Wadena, MN.

Also present: Commissioners Lane Waldahl, Dave Schermerhorn, William Stearns, Mary Harrison, County Highway Engineer Joel Ulring, Assistant County Highway Engineer Jeff Adolphson, HR Consultant Mike Gibson and Auditor/Treasurer Char West.

Mr. Ulring presented the Board with a handout outlining a power point presentation regarding the Wadena County Highway Department Transportation Capital Improvement Plan. He informed the Board that there were approximately 213 miles of State Aid Highway plus an additional 14 miles within the cities for a total of 227 miles of State Aid Highway within Wadena County. Mr. Ulring pointed out that the county roads were reducing and were down to around 216 miles; overall total miles being taken care of were around 443 miles with 87 bridges.

Mr. Ullring reviewed the source of funding; Federal Funds were solicited in the fall of each year and were reviewed at the regional level; the Area Transportation Partnership recommends funding to Mn/DOT for final approval; applications from Fall 2008 were actually for 2013 funding. He pointed out that in the years of 2005 through 2012 Wadena County had or will receive just under \$2.4 million. Mr. Ullring further explained that counties receive their State Aid Road and Bridge revenue from the State Aid Funds through the Highway Users Tax fund which was from gas tax, motor vehicle tax, motor vehicle sales tax and interest earned with a total of about \$2,361,000 being received in 2008 in Wadena County for both CSAH, County and Township roads. He added that from State Bonding and miscellaneous other funds, the County benefited mostly from Bridge Bonding. Mr. Ullring stated that another source of funding was the Safe Route to School Funds, which applications open up again this fall. He pointed out that local funding came from Property Taxes and Program Aid funds. Mr. Ullring stated that the state wide trend was towards pavement preservation rather than reconstruction due to shrinking funds.

Mr. Adolphson presented the Board with a map which outlined the Plan proposal of Wadena County road construction projects from 2008 through 2014. He reviewed the proposed projects for each year with the Board.

Commissioner Schermerhorn requested additional information regarding the CSAH 227 turn back to the County and funds involved.

Mr. Ullring responded that the turn back of CSAH 227 from a State Aid Road to a County Road usually meant that there were funds attached to bring the Road up to standards, but none were attached at this time.

The Board recessed at 10:35 a.m.

The Board reconvened at 10:48 a.m.

Mr. Ullring reviewed the Equipment Replacement Schedule with the Board. He pointed out that the County was on an 18 year replacement schedule for equipment replacement which figured out to be about a \$250,000 annual investment in plows, graders, etc in equipment for maintaining road.

Mr. Ullring reviewed the Capital Improvement Program noting the following project possibilities:

- Short term
 - Construct Vehicle Fueling System
 - Development of motor pool and vehicle servicing facility
- Long Term
 - Consolidation of outlying shops into a single centralized facility.

Mr. Ullring stated that he had been working with the City of Wadena on the development

of the old airport property known as the Woodland Prairie Addition. He added that this development called for the construction of a through roadway (Prairie Dr.) connecting CSAH 4 to TH 71. Mr. Ulring recommended the re-designation of CSAH 50 within the City of Wadena from the downtown streets to Prairie Dr. and further recommended removal of the CR 103 designation on 2nd St SE between Garfield and Colfax Ave. and then designate Garfield Ave. from Jefferson (TH 71) to 2nd St. SE. He stated that he would then try to obtain Federal funds on this project as it tied into a major Trunk Highway.

Board consensus was in favor of Mr. Ulring to continue working with the City of Wadena on the Woodland Prairie Addition.

Mr. Ulring updated the Board on recent Legislative issues. He reviewed the new Husbandry legislation; farm equipment continued to increase in size which had an impact on roadways; there was active legislation going on to deal with this. He pointed out that there was a new law designating former 9 ton roadways as 10 ton unless signed otherwise. Mr. Ulring added that permitting also came out with the same bill allowing increased loads for first haul when harvesting raw agricultural products i.e. potatoes, etc., which became effective as of August 1, 2008.

The Board then viewed the DVD entitled "Roads & Loads".

Motion by Schermerhorn, seconded by Harrison, to adopt the 5-year Highway Capital Improvement Plan as presented to the Board by the Highway Engineer, motion carried.

Chairman Meyer stated that during the AMC Conference the following week an invitation had been given to counties to partake in a demonstration in opposition to counties having to pay for the cost of Short Term Offenders within their jails. He pointed out that this would be held on September 18th during the Conference, which was a method being proposed to challenge the Legislature with some of their unfunded mandates. Chairman Meyer advised that he was uncomfortable with this and asked the Board for their input.

Commissioner Harrison stated that Sheriff Carr would not be able to attend due to the lack of staff to cover if he were absent. She also commented that she did not think it was necessary if Commissioners attend.

Chairman Meyer stated that he will leave it up to each individual Commissioner if they feel strongly that they should be there the Chair will give them permission to do so.

Chairman Meyer requested a Board decision on the budget item involving the requested 75% time 4-H Coordinator position in the Extension Department, which was increased from 50% in 2008. He questioned what the increase in funds would be.

Ms. West responded that she did not have that information available at the time but that it was between a \$12,000 and \$15,000 increase.

Commissioner Harrison commented that she believed the 4-H Coordinator expected it to remain at 50% as she was aware that there was no additional funding available.

Board consensus was to retain the current 50% time 4-H Coordinator position in the Extension Office.

Chairman Meyer questioned Ms. West as to the progress in the calculation of the Preliminary 2009 Tax Levy and Special Levies.

Ms. West reported that she was still working on the calculation of the Levy which would be available for their review and adoption during the Special Board Meeting on September 11th. She added that the deadline for the adoption of the Preliminary Levy was September 15, 2008.

Chairman Meyer and Commissioner Waldahl provided information from the Corrections Conference they had attended.

The Board recessed at 11:55

The Board reconvened 12:00 p.m.

Chairman Meyer closed the Special Board Meeting at 12:01 p.m. for the purpose of continued discussion on the 2009 Wage Negotiation Strategy.

Chairman Meyer opened the Special Board Meeting at 12:31 p.m.

Chairman Meyer informed the Board that the Closed Board Meeting would be continued during the September 11, 2008 Special Board Meeting for the purpose of discussing the 2009 Wage Negotiation Strategy.

Chairman Meyer adjourned the Special Board Meeting at 12:32 p.m.

Charleen West, Auditor/Treasurer

Orville Meyer, Chairman