

WADENA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
DECEMBER 1, 2009/3:00 P.M.

The Wadena County Board of Commissioners Meeting was held on Tuesday, December 1, 2009, at the Wadena County Courthouse in the Commissioners Room at 415 Jefferson St. S., Wadena Minnesota. The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chairman Dave Schermerhorn and the pledge of allegiance to the flag was said.

Also present: Commissioners Lane Waldahl, Rodney Bounds, William Stearns, Ralph Miller, and Auditor/Treasurer Char West.

Motion by Miller, seconded by Stearns, to amend the day's Agenda to include: 4:30 p.m. Sheldon Monson, Wadena Ag Society, f.) Section 1619 of the Food, Conservation & Energy Act of 2008 - Information, g.) Kitchigami Regional Library Joint Powers Agreement, i.) Fee Public Hearing, j.) Region 5 Representative, k.) Stimulus Funds, l.) Christmas Lunch December 17, 2009, motion carried.

Motion by Bounds, seconded by Miller, to approve the Board Meeting Minutes of November 19, 2009, as printed, motion carried.

Karen Nelson, Public Health Director, came before the Board requesting authorization to renew fee contracts for January 1, 2010 through December 21, 2010.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Stearns, to renew the following One-Year and Two-Year Public Health Fee Contracts for the upcoming year:

A. One Year Contract - 1-1-10 through 12-31-10

1. Fee to Bell Hill at \$42.25/hour + mileage at the prevailing co rate – no change
2. Fee for On Call Nursing at \$42.25/hour + mileage at prevailing county rate – no change; a) Freshwater, b) Wadena Deer Creek School
3. Fee for Early Childhood Screening for Verndale, Wadena, Menahga, Sebeka Schools:
(Rate set by State Dept. of Education) – no change; \$75.00 – child age 3, \$50.00 – child age 4, \$40.00 – child age 5
4. Medical Consultant - \$125 - no change
5. Back-up Sanitarian services from Morrison and Douglas County Public Health at \$40.00/hour portal to portal plus mileage, meals, lab tests and materials.
6. Wadena County Sanitarian at \$108.15/inspection and \$23.70/hour not to exceed \$21,076 – no rate change; added additional 40 hrs work or \$948 of the \$2,000 FDA grant
7. Infectious Waste – Stericycle, at \$50 per 28 gallon box, minimum pick up fee \$50, no waste fee \$35, \$5 fuel/\$2 energy charge per stop, \$5 record retention fee – cost decrease
8. CHIC, NE Regional Immunization Registry to pay Wadena County Public Health for PH Immunization outreach for MA children based on the % of MA children in our County.

9. Wadena County Social Services for as needed nurse time for LTCC at \$105 per visit and \$20.43 per 15 minutes for visits over 2 hours and availability of the Public Health Medical Consultant for LTCC/Case Management consultation effective 1-1-10 to 12-31-10.
10. Senior Health Screening Clinic rent at Family Center building with the City of Menahga at \$50/year.

B. Two Year Contracts - 1-1-10 through 12-31-11

- 1) WIC Physicians – no fee, Shaneen Schmidt, MD – Wadena Medical Center, Greg Sperle, MD – Menahga Clinic
- 2) WIC Clinic Sites – \$65/day - no change; 1st English Lutheran Church – Menahga, Assembly of God Church – Menahga back up, Christian Missionary Alliance Church – Staples, Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church – Sebeka

Motion carried.

Ms. Nelson requesting permission to reappoint Bob Allebach to a three year term on the Public Health Advisory Committee:

Motion by Stearns, seconded by Bounds, to reappoint Bob Allebach, District 5, to a three year term on the Wadena County Public Health Advisory Committee effective January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2012, motion carried.

Ms. Nelson requested from the Board signatures on Certificates of Appreciation for three members of the Public Health Advisory Committee who were retiring. She advised that after one year of absence, they would be eligible to start over; these positions needed replacements.

Motion by Stearns, seconded by Miller, to authorize the signing of Certificates of Appreciation for the following retiring Advisory Committee Members who served six years on the Wadena County Public Health Advisory Committee; Lani Roberts - Commissioner Miller’s District 2, Diane Peters - Commissioner Stearns’ District 3, and Betty Kreklau - Commissioner Bounds’ District 4, motion carried.

Ms. Nelson pointed out that the replacements for the retiring members needed to be in place by January 2010.

Ms. Nelson informed the Board of a letter she had received from the State of Minnesota Commissioner of Public Health thanking the Wadena County Health Department for the work done with the H1N1 vaccine protection.

Ms. Nelson related a thank you letter she had received pertaining to a situation where they used Sentenced to Serve to clean up a public health nuisance; she reminded the Board that she tried to use STS for assistance in cleaning up public health nuisances whenever it was appropriate and advised it was a big help and cost saving for the community.

Jeff Adolphson, Assistant Highway Engineer, distributed to the Board the Five-Year Road Plan and specifically pointed out the following;

- 1.) Region 5 Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) advised they were willing to offer their assistance in filling the County Engineer position.
- 2.) Two projects would be solicited for Federal Highway Funds in January 2010 with possible funding to be received in 2014; to upgrade CSAH 4 from Wadena to CSAH 23; and CSAH 25 north of Huntersville 2.2 miles needed to be upgraded in a similar manner.

Mr. Adolphson referred to the Engineering Agreement with Todd County stating that Ryan Odden had not yet been approved as the temporary Highway Engineer fill in and that there was some language Ms. Ladd was not entirely in agreement with. He added that in talking with the Todd County Engineer, he was in a position where he felt he could not change the language. Mr. Adolphson stated that he felt maybe the Board should just move ahead with the Agreement.

Ms. Ladd commented that the language would not be fatal, but she felt there was some poor language in the contract.

Commissioner Stearns pointed out that he agreed with Ms. Ladd that the language should be changed, however, the Todd County Engineer stated that it was a take it or leave it situation and that he felt that the Board was pretty much bound to take it.

Mr. Adolphson added that he was comfortable with the Agreement, but it was not his decision.

Ms. Ladd pointed out that there was money tied up that Wadena County stood to lose money if the County did not have someone in the County Engineer position. She added that the risk exposure was greater if the Board did not have someone in place in the interim until the position was filled.

Motion by Stearns, seconded by Waldahl, to approve the Interim County Engineer Services Agreement with Todd County as presented, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Adolphson informed the Board that they were currently interviewing candidates for the Maintenance III position for the Shop in Menahga.

Mr. Adolphson informed the Board that following the Annual Safety Audit there were two items that were not in compliance. He pointed out that one item was personal protective equipment for chain saw safety under Federal Regulation 1910.266 which was basically in operating a chain saw the operator must have the proper chaps and head protection. Mr. Adolphson added that the second item was the need of a flammable or combustible liquid storage cabinet under Regulation 1910.106. He requested the use of funds from the Highway Department Shop Budget to cover the necessary expenditures. Mr. Adolphson reviewed two quotes he had received for six sets of chain saw safety protective ware;

Forestry Supply (a South Carolina supplier)	\$798.04
Location & Supplies (a Minnesota supplier)	\$807.33

Motion by Miller, seconded by Waldahl, to approve the purchase of 6 sets of chain saw safety protective clothing from Locators and Supplies, the local vendor in Minnesota, for a total cost of \$807.33, motion carried.

Mr. Adolphson presented the Board with two quotes for the fire-proof cabinet;

Locator & Supplies	Fire Proof Cabinets	45 gallon	\$ 883.86
		60 gallon	\$1,059.13
Conney	Fire Proof Cabinets	45 gallon	\$1,277.16
		60 gallon	\$1,576.41

Motion by Bounds, seconded by Stearns, to authorize the purchase of a 60 gallon Fire Proof Cabinet from Locator and Supplies for the Highway Department at a cost of \$1,059.13 plus shipping and handling;

Chairman Schermerhorn recommended contacting Otter Tail County Solid Waste Department as to whether they had a used fire-proof storage cabinet they would like to sell.

Stearns aye, Miller aye, Schermerhorn nay, Bounds aye, Waldahl aye, motion carried.

Mr. Adolphson reviewed with the Board several Shop maintenance and repair items that needed to be taken care of in the Wadena and Menahga shops which would be covered by funds in the Shop Budget. He pointed out that most of the work could be done by the Highway Department Employees now and insulating of the Menahga Shop could be done at a later date.

Mr. Adolphson advised that this would save heating costs. He added that the estimated available funds at year end 2009 would be \$29,000.

Commissioner Stearns commented this item was discussed at the Highway Committee Meeting at which time it was recommended that it come before the Board for approval. He pointed out that he felt this was a good use of the men's time.

Commissioner Schermerhorn suggested Sentenced to Serve (STS) could help if the Highway employees were busy.

Mr. Adolphson added that the improvements could be worked on over the winter months with the Menahga Shop being done at a later date. He pointed out that he would like at least the first four items approved so they could get started on them.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Bounds, to approve the following Shop Maintenance and Repairs, up to \$20,000 out of the Shop Budget as recommended by the Assistant Highway Engineer;

1. Outlying Shops – replace windows and entry doors \$ 3,200
2. Clean up Men's Bathroom in the Wadena Shop \$ 3,000
3. Replace lower sections of overhead doors/adjust and weather-strip \$ 2,000
4. Cover exposed sections of overhead doors/adjust and weather-strip \$ 1,500

5. Insulate Menahga Shop (update from 1957) \$ 7,500
Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Adolphson reviewed Administrative Items that were needed in the Highway Department at a total cost of \$11,600;

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|---|------------|
| 1. Conference Room Table (Extension & Highway Dept. use) | \$ 600.00 |
| 2. Assistant Engineer's Office – Desk, Work Station Table | \$1,500.00 |
| 3. Update Copy Machine | \$9,000.00 |
| 3. Conference Room Cabinet & Sink (Extension & Highway use) | \$ 500.00 |

Mr. Adolphson informed the Board that there were funds for a copy machine from savings in the Computer Services line item; the copy machine had been in service for 8 years and received a high amount of use. He added that the cost of a new copy machine was estimated at \$9,000 less trade-in; he would also contact the National Joint Powers Alliance for a quote.

Motion by Stearns, seconded by Bounds, to approve the purchase of; one Conference Room Table (Extension & Highway Dept. use) - \$600, Assistant Engineer's Office – Desk, Work Station Table - \$1,500 and Conference Room Cabinet and Sink (Extension & Highway use) – \$500;

Ms. West pointed out that over the previous year and one half, when funds were really becoming tight; the Board had set up procedures in reviewing certain purchases with final Board approval. She reminded the Board that previous Board action had been based on safety, ergonomics, etc.

Commissioner Stearns commented that it was the Committee's feeling that Mr. Adolphson should bring these items to the Board, especially on the Interim basis, so everyone was aware of the expenditures. He pointed out that a few years ago ergonomically correct desks were purchased for the Engineering Office.

Motion carried.

Commissioner Stearns commented that when Mr. Adolphson was appointed Interim Department Head the Board had failed to address additional compensation for working out of class, which had been discussed at the Highway Department Committee Meeting. He added that the figure of \$125 per week was being suggested as this was the amount two Assistant Janitors had received while serving as Co-Interim Department Heads of the Maintenance Department. Commissioner Stearns stated that the Committee recommended Mr. Adolphson receive \$125 per week additional compensation.

Motion by Stearns, seconded by Waldahl, to approve the payment of an additional \$125 per week compensation for Jeff Adolphson, Interim Highway Department Department Head, for doing work out of his classification;

Kyra Ladd, County Attorney, pointed out to the Board that this situation had previously occurred when a Department Head had served our Country over seas; the issue of being paid in the same

grade and looking at the step range when deciding appropriate compensation as an interim Department Head; not necessarily consistent with past practice, but how it should be done in accordance with union contract and how compensation was decided so it was not necessarily arbitrary. She pointed out that she did not know how the dollar amount was arrived at or what grade the previous Department Head or Assistant Highway Engineer were graded at. Ms. Ladd added that the previous situation created hard feelings and Board action would set precedence; she just wanted to be proactive.

Commissioner Stearns pointed out that Mr. Adolphson was not in the Union so the issue would not have to be dealt with.

Ms. Ladd questioned whether this dollar amount was consistent with grade and step range.

Commissioner Stearns responded that her point was well taken; it was only consistent with the Janitors additional compensation.

Ms. West pointed out that that the Board could set the grade and step that would equal the \$125.

Mike Gibson, Consultant, pointed out that the Highway Department Committee had discussed what the former wage of the Highway Department Head was as a comparison and what was okay with Mr. Adolphson. He added that a policy needed to be set so when a situation such as this would come up the Board would have something in place.

Commissioner Stearns referred to the situation with the previous Assistant Highway Engineer who had also served as Interim Highway Department Head; the Board had realized they had not provided additional compensation to him so they were going to do it after the fact. He added that the Interim Department Head then suggested he would like to work half time for a year or so as an Administrative Assistant Engineer instead of receiving additional compensation.

Ms. Ladd pointed out that the Board had a range to work with and that they would not want to open themselves up to an arbitrary process; it would not be good to just base it on past practices. She added that he was clearly operating as a Department Head and should be compensated but the Board should come up with a number within the range and what step on that grade to make it work.

Mr. Gibson added that the Board should consider that the former Department Head had capabilities and licensing that authorized him to service the County at a higher level than this situation, so how far could the Board go up to justify that number.

Commissioner Waldahl and Commissioner Stearns agreed to take their previous motion off of the table.

Commissioner Stearns informed the Board that the Highway Department Committee also discussed the fact that the Assistant Highway Foreman had also been working out of class. He pointed out that the previous Highway Engineer Russ Larson had appointed Joe Pierce as the

Foreman who did not receive extra compensation except when he would assume the duties.

Mr. Gibson read information from the Union contract pointing out that Mr. Pierce only received additional compensation when performing Foreman duties.

The Board recessed at 4:16 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 4:29 p.m.

Sheldon Monson and Barb Butler, Wadena County Ag Society, came before the Board to request \$5,000 of their \$15,000 2010 Appropriation in January 2010 which they would pay to the Carnival in January 2010 as a down payment for the 2010 County Fair. They pointed out that this was the same Carnival as was at the Crow Wing County Fair only somewhat smaller in size.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Miller, to approve the payment of \$5,000 of the \$15,000 2010 Appropriation to the Wadena County Ag Society in January 2010, as requested by the Wadena County Ag Society, motion carried.

The Board returned to the previous discussion of the additional compensation to the Assistant Highway Engineer while serving as Interim Highway Department Head.

Ms. West reported that Mr. Adolphson's current compensation was based on Grade 56, Step 10; Mr. Ulring's compensation was based on Grade 59, Step 6; \$3.13 per hour was equivalent to \$125 a week.

Ms. Ladd commented that Mr. Adolphson was doing a lot extra but did not have the license of the Highway Engineer; he should be compensated for his extra work but pointed out to the Board that they should not just pick a number out of the air.

Commissioner Stearns added that the Highway Committee had also discussed the Highway Department vehicle used by the previous Highway Engineer; if the Assistant Highway Engineer could use this vehicle driving to and from work so he could inspect roads when coming to work. He suggested that if Mr. Adolphson used the vehicle he may be satisfied with a lower step.

Mr. Adolphson commented that this seemed to make sense as he could work on his way to work and on the way home.

Mr. Gibson pointed out that a vehicle was provided in the winter for the Maintenance Foreman. He also reminded the Board that the reason why Mr. Ulring was at the grade and step he was at was because of the credentials he had. He added that this issue did not have to be decided that day.

Commissioner Waldahl indicated that he felt the issue should go back to the Highway

Committee and have Commissioner Stearns, Ms. West, Ms. Ladd and Mr. Gibson review it and come back with a grade and step and authorize Mr. Adolphson to use the Highway Department vehicle to check the roads.

Chairman Schermerhorn stated that Board consensus was for Mr. Adolphson to use the County Highway vehicle to drive to and from home and to review the Interim Highway Department Head and Assistant Foreman wage.

Mr. Adolphson informed the Board that the Annual Asphalt Conference was scheduled in the Twin Cities the following day and the State Department of Transportation had informed him that the Wadena County Engineering Department won the State Merit Award for construction excellence for the County Highway CSAH 3 Project; they wanted to make sure someone would be in attendance so he would be attending.

Ms. Ladd came before the Board to comment that the Solid Waste issue had been a project for many and was now coming to an end, however, she was concerned due to quotes from the November 19th Board Meeting in the newspaper, supposedly by her, and would like to clarify some things as to whether she was being misconstrued or if she actually said something to someone. She pointed out that several weeks ago she had several conversations with Commissioner Bounds as to the Solid Waste Department regarding how the interviewing process was supposed to go for Solid Waste, posting process, etc. Ms. Ladd pointed out that there were flaws in the Policy as it related to hiring, they were not necessarily fatal, but some things could be worded better. She added that in those conversations with Commissioner Bounds there was a conversation about how the hiring process worked, who sat on the panel, how the applications were reviewed, etc. and that usually this was done by the Department Head, but in this case there was not a Department Head. Ms. Ladd commented that she would like to clarify things, as the Board was ready to start this process for Solid Waste; the Board did not have to have a Department Head to direct this process; the Liaison for a particular Department would spearhead this process in the absence of a Department.

Mr. Gibson, Consultant, came before the Board to provide them with a Solid Waste Department update. He referred to the hiring process of the Solid Waste Attendant positions; positions at the Union level had to be posted for 10 days for other Union members to review and consider applying for. Mr. Gibson pointed out that in some instances, after the 10 days, an ad was placed in the newspapers but there was nothing in County policy that regulated posting for 10 days and advertising at the same time; the key was if 100 people applied, it did not supersede the obligation to the Union members who get first chance at the position. He added that he had contacted the Business Agent for Teamsters Local 320, who had indicated that there was nothing in Union Contract against posting and advertising at the same time; precedence had been that it was posted first however; the main thing was that the County follow the Contract and that Union Members get first chance. Mr. Gibson pointed out that both of the two Union Members at the Transfer Station informed him that they would also be applying for the Highway Maintenance Worker position and that potentially what could have occurred was that they would have been hired at the Highway Department which also was a reason for posting and advertising the Solid Waste position at the same time so they would have an opportunity to review outside

applications. He also explained how he could not guarantee the current Solid Waste employees that they would be appointed to the positions as other Teamster members from another Department that had seniority would have been appointed to the positions. Mr. Gibson pointed out that the end result was that they were the only Union Members to apply for the Solid Waste positions and the positions were theirs by Contract. He added that he had spoke with Mike Hanen, Otter Tail County Solid Waste Director, who agreed that it seemed best to invite the two gentlemen in separately and talk with them, offer them the position as well as evaluation them at the same time.

Ms. Ladd commented that Commissioner Bounds had done a good job of pointing out to her the language in the Union Contract and Personnel Policy; it was not that things were not addressed, they were just vague; there should be a standard and a review of the situation.

Mr. Gibson reported his review process of the applications; some had applied for the Highway Department position and some for the Solid Waste Attendants position as applicants had called requesting that they be considered for either position. He pointed out that he had reviewed the applications to determine what they were qualified for and ended up with 11 candidates who indicated the Supervisory position; he then scored the application as to the stated qualifications and ended up with one person with 105 points and the other 10 who had received 80 points. Mr. Gibson stated that he had questioned Ms. Ladd regarding what to do in this situation as only one applicant met the minimum qualifications; do we interview them and set precedence or not interview them if they are not qualified.

Ms. Ladd responded; why interview someone who was not qualified; why hire someone who did not meet the minimum requirements, as long as the qualifications were clearly listed in the application.

Mr. Gibson questioned the Board as to whether they wanted to break precedence or award the position to the person who met the minimum qualifications.

Commissioner Bounds questioned how many Mr. Gibson felt would be interview and who looked at the applications besides he.

Ms. West responded that she had also reviewed the applications and scoring sheet. She pointed out that the hard part was how the individual filled out the application as the job posting was specific; if the applicant did not indicate information in the application it could not be considered in the scoring.

Commissioner Bounds questioned why another person was being hired when the work load was less compared to a year ago.

Commissioner Stearns responded that there used to be 3 ½ employees in the Solid Waste Department and there was only 2 ½ a year ago.

Commissioner Bounds commented that the recycling trucks were previously dumping and hauling out; it was less work.

Commissioner Stearns responded that additional work had been added in terms of the increased recycling, which would be increasing again; they will be picking up more places; there will basically be one person on the road.

Ms. West added that another reason for the additional staff time was to avoid the financial oversight problems that had occurred in the past.

Commissioner Stearns added the State Auditor did criticize the previous handling of money at the Transfer Station.

Ms. Ladd pointed out that there needed to be a check and balance.

Mr. Gibson advised that he had been working closely with Solid Waste and that his task was to save the County money; certain repairs were falling behind at that facility. He pointed out that instead of the County paying in excess of \$45,000 year for a Department Head, \$19,500 would now be paid; the County would have better accountability for everybody on-site. Mr. Gibson added that the other issue to be recognized was that the County had made a tremendous savings at Solid Waste Department; in eight months, from April 2008 through November 2008, the County paid Waste Management \$188,405 to haul garbage; this year, April 2009 through November 2009, the County had paid \$71,077. He commented that if there was more man power at the Transfer Station, the County would have a smoother more economical operation; the Department has had people call in to compliment the operation at Solid Waste and in all fairness to the Staff out there, this needed to be weigh.

Commissioner Stearns commented that the Department could still use Otter Tail County Solid Waste staff for vacation and sick leave. He added that the Highway Department Committee had also discussed the possibility of cross training staff for emergency situations.

Commissioner Bounds commented that it was not a question of ability; if the half-time person was needed, he would be willing to accept that.

Mr. Gibson questioned whether the Board would consent to him notifying the two Solid Waste Attendant Union applicants that they were being offered the full-time permanent positions and to visit with them and conduct an evaluation.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Stearns, to authorize Mr. Gibson to offer the Solid Waste Attendant positions to Chris Harshaw and Mike Pete at their current Grade 49, Step 1, motion carried.

Mr. Gibson informed the Board that Otter Tail County did not want to start the Otter Tail/Wadena Solid Waste Department Head Agreement until January 1, 2010. He also advised

that the Agreement, written by the Wadena County Assistant County Attorney, was agreed to by Otter Tail County but they would like a list of duties expected of Mr. Hanen be included in the Agreement; both Mr. Hanen and Otter Tail County were comfortable with this and would like the Board to review it.

Mr. Gibson inquired of the Board whether he should offer the Solid Waste Department Supervisor position to the one person who met the minimum qualifications; current Solid Waste employee Tammy Ehrmantraut.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Miller, to authorize Mr. Gibson to offer the Solid Waste Department Supervisor position to Tammy Ehrmantraut as the only qualified person,

Commissioner Stearns pointed out that this was a non-Union position so this person would be going from a Union position to a non-Union position.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Board recessed at 5:40 p.m.

Chairman Schermerhorn convened the 2010 County Budget and Levy Public Hearing at 6:05 p.m.

Also present: Commissioners Stearns, Miller, Bounds and Waldahl, Zoning/Parks Director Deana Skov, Social Services Director Paul Sailer, County Recorder Sole Henriksen, Public Health Director Karen Nelson, County Assessor Lee Brekke, Sheriff Mike Carr and Auditor/Treasurer Char West; absent: County Attorney Kyra Ladd, MIS Director Kevin Stensrude, Assistant Highway Engineer Jeff Adolphson, Building Services Director Sean Uselman. Also present were approximately 30 Wadena County residents.

Ms. West reviewed a handout outlining Wadena County's 2010 Total Budget and Tax Levy compared to its 2009 Total Budget and Tax Levy which reflected an 11% decrease in spending, a 3.2% increase in Tax Levy, a 11.6% increase in local tax capacity and a 8.3% decrease in local tax rate. She also reviewed a spreadsheet outlining individual department and fund budgets for 2010 which reflected a total County 2010 Expenditure Budget of \$18,465,406; 2010 Special Levies claimed by the County totaling \$941,244 and the Preliminary 2009 Payable 2010 Tax Levy of \$7,680,053.

Commissioner Stearns informed those in attendance that the Public Hearing was for the purpose of discussing the County's proposed 2010 Budget and Levy; if those in attendance had questions relating to property valuations they could contact Lee Brekke, County Assessor for an appointment.

Mr. Brekke informed the audience that the County Board of Equalization was held in June, in March the Board of Equalization Meeting notices were sent out to property owners with Township and City Meetings held in April. He pointed out that the valuations they saw on their

TNT notices were set in June 2009.

An England Prairie Pioneer Club representative questioned what constituted a non-profit; why was any of their property taxable.

Mr. Brekke briefly explained the criteria for a non-profit designation and would schedule a meeting with the organization to further review their questions.

Troy Barrett, Thomastown Township, questioned why the County had reduced their expenses in 2010 but the percentage of tax levy had increased.

Ms. West responded that expenditures had been reduced in 2009 by approximately \$450,000 but due to the decrease in state revenues, etc., an increase in property taxes was needed.

Danny Goeden, Wadena County resident, questioned whether the County provided funds to the Otter Tail Wadena Community Action Council.

Mr. Barrett questioned whether union negotiations were completed.

Commissioner Stearns responded that all of the bargaining agreements had not been finalized. He pointed out that Wadena County did not have an HR Department or a County Coordinator to conduct negotiations.

Mr. Barrett pointed out that he had not had a raise in two years and asked that the Commissioners keep in mind that there were two families living on his income; his family and a County employees' family through tax dollars.

A Wadena County resident questioned whether the County had a "slush fund".

Ms. West responded that this was also called a "reserve fund"; the State Auditor recommended a six month reserve for the General Fund which was approximately 1.2 million dollars but that Wadena County's 2008 Audit report reflected a \$25,600 cash reserve.

A Wadena County resident questioned how the Wadena School Bond Issue would affect her property taxes as she was receiving conflicting information.

Commissioner Stearns responded that it was his understanding that some of the old Wadena School debt would come off so property owners may not see much of a change in their property tax statements.

Commissioner Miller informed Mr. Goeden that Otter Tail Wadena Community Action Council did not receive tax money from the County; he explained the funding and services of the Council. He added that the reason why he had seconded the motion for the 3.23 tax levy was to establish a County reserve.

Commissioner Stearns explained the state unallotment of County Program Aid and the one time tax levy opportunity to special levy the funds back to the County.

A Wadena County resident questioned why the County Assessor 2010 Budget had increased.

Mr. Brekke responded that the increase was due to there being 2088 hrs. of personnel time instead of the usual 2080 hrs.

A Wadena County resident question what 800 Mhz was.

Commissioner Waldahl responded that it was the State of Minnesota Emergency Broadband which was partially funded by grant funds.

Sheriff Carr added that it was a federal mandate that required all emergency personnel to be on one communication system by 2012.

A Wadena County resident question what GIS stood for.

Ms. Skov responded that it stood for Geographic Information Systems.

Mr. Barrett commended Social Services for a reduced 2010 budget.

Chairman Schermerhorn adjourned the 2010 Budget and Levy Public Hearing at 6:55 p.m. as no additional questions were received.

Chairman Schermerhorn reconvened the Regular Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Chairman Schermerhorn set the following future Board Meeting dates of January 5, 2010, January 21, 2010 and February 2, 2010.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Miller, to authorize the Chairman and Auditor/Treasurer to review and pay Board of Commissioner bills prior to December 31, 2009 with Board approval on January 5, 2010, motion carried.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Bounds, to call for bids for the 2010 Wadena County Official Newspaper to be opened during the January 5, 2010, motion carried.

The Board reviewed information from the County Assessor relating to Section 1619 of the Food, Conservation & Energy Act of 2008.

Chairman Schermerhorn tabled discussion and action on the Kitchigami Regional Library Joint Powers Agreement until the December 17, 2009 Board Meeting.

Chairman Schermerhorn moved discussion of the West Central Regional Juvenile Center Annual Agreement to the Social Services Board Meeting.

Chairman Schermerhorn set the Wadena County Fee Public Hearing for December 17, 2009.

Motion by Stearns, seconded by Waldahl, to reappoint David Schermerhorn as the Region 5 Development Commissioner Representative for 2010, motion carried

Chairman Schermerhorn tabled discussion of Stimulus funds until the December 17, 2009 Board Meeting.

Motion by Stearns, seconded by Miller, to approve payment of the Board of Commissioner bills in the amount of \$58,194.67, motion carried.

Commissioner Miller reported on the Work Force Center Lease Negotiations; the MNCEP Director had informed them that his superiors were in agreement of a two year lease for their Workforce Center space at a 3% increase for 2010 and 2011.

Motion by Miller, seconded by Stearns, to approve a two-year Lease Agreement with Rural Minnesota CEP reflecting a 3% lease payment increase for 2010 and 2011, motion carried.

Chairman Schermerhorn closed the Regular Board Meeting at 7:16 p.m. for the purpose of strategizing for the 2010 Labor Negotiations.

Chairman Schermerhorn opened the Regular Board Meeting at 8:18 p.m.

Chairman Schermerhorn adjourned the Regular Board of Commissioners Meeting at 8:19 p.m.

Charleen West, Auditor/Treasurer

David Schermerhorn, Chairman