

**WADENA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING**  
**May 5, 2009, 9:00 A.M.**

The Wadena County Board of Commissioners Meeting was held on Tuesday, May 5, 2009, 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 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 Stearns, seconded by Waldahl, to amend the day's Agenda to include 1:15 p.m.) Karen Nelson, Public Health Director, Drug Free Contract, Community Workshop; 1:30 a.m.) Closed Board Meeting for Preliminary Consideration regarding allegations or charges in a criminal matter against County Solid Waste Employees; e) SWCD Allocation Request; f) 2009 Budget Discussion; g) Otter Tail County Invoice – Contracted Labor, motion carried.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Bounds, to approve the Adjourned Board Meeting Minutes of April 23, 2009 and Special Board Meeting Minutes of April 23, 2009, as presented, motion carried.

Mike Hanan, Ottertail County Solid Waste Director, came before the Board regarding a proposed Joint Powers (JP) Agreement for the Perham Resource Recovery Facility. Mr. Hanan gave a brief history of how the pursuit of a joint powers agreement between Otter Tail County, Wadena County, Todd County and the City of Perham had been initiated. He distributed a handout which outlined four options that could be considered;

- Option #1 – Full JP Board with City Role
- Option #2 – JP Board with No City Role
- Option #3 - Current Governance Structure – City owned and operated
- Option #4 – JP Board with Interim Contract Operation

Mr. Hanan pointed out that Otter Tail County and Todd County had approved Option #4. He was not aware at that time of what the City of Perham's decision had been on the issue. He reviewed the points of Option 4; 1) form the JP Board which would consist of Ottertail County, Wadena County, Todd County and the City of Perham, based on their debt responsibility to the facility; 2) transfer ownership of the Resource Recovery Facility to the JP Board; 3) Assign energy sales agreements to the JP Board; 4) the JP Board would identify participants to an Executive Committee which would oversee facility operations, the maintenance agreement and would address issues that could not wait until a meeting of full JP Board; 5) develop an Operating and Maintenance Agreement and negotiate with the City of Perham to provide interim operating and maintenance services; Agreement could be for one year and renewable up to one year if necessary; 6) define each party's responsibility as it related to facility ownership, debt and waste deliveries; 7) Waste delivery would be the responsibility of Otter Tail County, Todd County and Wadena County; 8) during the interim operating period the JP Board would evaluate options for future facility operations and determine how to operate the facility beyond the interim operating Agreement.

Mr. Hanan reviewed the history and calculation of the Administrative fee currently paid to the City of Perham for the operation of the Resource Recovery Facility.

Commissioner Waldahl questioned what would occur if the Counties voted yes on Option #4 and the City of Perham voted no.

Mr. Hanan responded that the Otter Tail County Attorney stated that the City of Perham had to agree to it or the Counties could not move forward.

Commissioner Miller questioned whether the Joint Powers Agreement would replace the Contract.

Mr. Hanan responded that it would replace the Contract. He also pointed out that due to the mechanical problems at the Facility it forced everyone to look at what they were actually generating of electricity, thus making the decision to generate steam. Mr. Hanan added that 100% of the steam produced by the Facility was provided to Tuffies and Baumgart.

Commissioner Stearns pointed out that he had provided a copy of the proposed Joint Powers Agreement to the Wadena County Attorney, with no response to date.

Board discussion was held pointing out that the Otter Tail County Attorney had reviewed the information and approved it, as well as MCIT.

Motion by Stearns, seconded by Miller, to support Option #4 of the Perham Resource Recovery Facility proposed Joint Powers Board concept, motion carried.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Stearns, to approve payment of the invoice received for Contracted Labor at the Wadena County Transfer Station in April, 2009 from the Otter Tail County Solid Waste Department in the amount of \$4,757.62, motion carried.

Mike Gibson, Consultant, came before the Board to update them on the current operations of the Wadena County Transfer Station. He stated that he had toured the Otter Tail County Solid Waste Facility in Fergus Falls and was very impressed. Mr. Gibson strongly suggested the Board set up a time to view the Facility and recycling operation, as well as their Transfer Station at New York Mills. He pointed out that Otter Tail's operation allowed them to sell their recyclables where as Wadena County was currently paying someone to haul them away. Mr. Gibson informed the Board that he had attended the Perham Resource Recovery Board Meeting along with Chairman Schermerhorn, Commissioner Stearns, and Auditor/Treasurer West. He pointed out that following the Meeting they had met with Mr. Hanan and two Otter Tail County Commissioners to discuss whether it would be cost effective to revamp Wadena County's current Transfer Station system at a very high cost, or consider collaboration with Ottertail County.

Mr. Hanan pointed out that the Otter Tail Board Members were receptive to the idea of collaboration with Wadena County; the difference between the two facilities had a lot to do with the volume of waste and it would probably not be feasible for Wadena County to build a facility equal to Otter Tail County.

Mr. Gibson added that he had recently been contacted by Wadena Hide and Fur stating they would also had an interest in purchasing cardboard and aluminum recyclables from Wadena County.

Mr. Gibson reviewed the minutes and recommendations of the Wadena County Solid Waste Committee; #1-Arrow News/KSKK 94.7 FM/KVKK 1070 AM – solicitation for radio advertisement of HHW – Committee recommendation not to participate at this time due to change in previous acceptance of HHW; #2- Request for increase of Solid Waste Petty Cash at Transfer Station – Committee recommendation to increase Solid Waste Petty Cash to \$150 from previous \$50. Mr. Gibson pointed out that safeguards had been put in place and that the recommended increase was for the need to make change; #7- Cash Register for Transfer Station – Mr. Gibson reported that he had received an offer of a 1 ½ year old cash register from Peters Drug for \$100 – Committee recommendation to purchase the used cash register from Peter Drug for \$100.

Commissioner Bounds questioned whether \$150 was enough for making change at the Transfer Station. He pointed out that if checks and balances were done daily he felt it should be increased to \$250 as it was not cost efficient to have to have employees run change to the Transfer Station during the day.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Stearns, to approve an increase in the Solid Waste Petty Cash from \$50.00 to \$250.00 and item #7; purchase one 1 ½ year old cash register from Peters Drug for \$100, as recommended by the Solid Waste Committee, motion carried.

Mr. Gibson reviewed item #3 – Septic and Leachate Holding Tanks – Committee recommended to wet down loads, when necessary, with outside faucet water, have both tanks commercially pumped as necessary and have exposed and corrected wires repaired.

Commissioner Miller questioned whether the pumping service was a contracted service.

Mr. Gibson responded that at present it had not been due to the urgency of needing the service; however, in fairness to all vendors, they should have an opportunity to provide a price to perform the service.

The Board recessed at 10:17 a.m.

The Board reconvened at 10:30 a.m.

Joel Ulring, Highway Engineer, came before the Board at 10:30 a.m. to open Sealed Bids for the CSAH 30 Construction Project SAP 80-630-14, as follows;

Tri-City Paving	\$329,310.13
Knife River Corporation	\$306,556.25
Anderson Brothers	\$277,392.12
Mark Sand & Gravel	\$392,854.85
Central Specialties, Inc.	\$432,008.45

Mr. Ulring reported that the Engineer's estimate for the Project was \$392,492.50.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Stearns, to approve, contingent upon review, the apparent low bid of \$277,391.12 submitted by Anderson Brothers for Project SAP 80-630-14; Milling Bituminous Surfacing and Aggregate Shouldering, motion carried.

The Board returned to the list of Solid Waste Committee recommendations.

Mr. Gibson reviewed item #4 regarding allegations received that City Sanitation had been hauling Wadena County waste to the Hubbard County Transfer Station free of charge and that Wadena County and Hubbard County had no facts indicating this.

Chairman Schermerhorn recommended contacting G&T Sanitation of these findings.

Mr. Gibson reviewed item #5; Temporary Transfer Station Employee applications – five applications had been received and 11 applications, from the previous advertising of the Temporary Recycling Processor advertising, would also be considered. The Committee recommended the Interviewing Committee consist of Chairman Schermerhorn, Building Services Director Sean Uselman, Consultant Mike Gibson, Auditor/Treasurer Char West, and Ottertail County Solid Waste Director Mike Hanan. Applications reviewed the week of May 4<sup>th</sup>, interviews scheduled week of May 11<sup>th</sup> and recommendation to hire during the May 21<sup>st</sup> Board Meeting.

Commissioner Bounds questioned whether there was a screening process prior to conducting the interviews.

Ms. West responded that there was a screening process that also provided the ability to apply Veterans preference points.

Commissioner Stearns pointed out that he would not be in attendance of the May 21<sup>st</sup> Board Meeting and questioned whether another Commissioner should be appointed to the Interviewing Committee.

The Board commented that they felt there were sufficient participants on the Interview Committee.

Mr. Gibson reviewed item #6- Temporary Transfer Station Supervisor wage - the position was not affected by union contract which outlined working “out of class”; employee was in agreement of no wage increase at this time. Committee recommendation was to continue current wage, at this time. Mr. Gibson pointed out that the Board could consider a stipend, or increase the wage, however, the Committee recommendation was to continue current wage, at this time, with possible reconsideration at a later date.

Mr. Gibson reviewed item #8- Hook Truck for Transfer Station – Mr. Gibson reviewed information he had received on new and used hook trucks; Committee recommendation to request Board direction whether to research a new truck or a used truck. He recommended to the Board that they determine a budget for the purchase of a truck and then get the best buy accordingly, whether new or used. Mr. Gibson pointed out that consideration had to be given whether or not Wadena County may collaborate with another county, which would help decide the size of the truck that would be needed; if the truck purchased was for short runs within Wadena County a smaller truck would be fine, however, if

working with another County, a truck of larger capacity would be needed.

Commissioner Bounds questioned what the fund total currently was in the Solid Waste Fund.

Ms. West responded that the Solid Waste Fund's current cash balance was approximately \$400,000 with Special Assessments coming in the near future.

Mr. Ulring pointed out that if over \$100,000 was to be spent the County would have to follow the bidding guidelines that were outlined in statute.

Mr. Gibson reviewed item #10- Transfer Station Fees.

Commissioner Stearns questioned if the fees charged for residential household garbage dropped off at the Transfer Station needed to be adjusted. He pointed out that current charges were \$1.00 for a bag, \$2.00 for a 30 gallon bag and \$25 for a pickup load.

Mr. Hanan responded that Otter Tail County's charges were very similar. He stated that they assumed rates were subsidized by their service fee which was based on their hauler fee of \$49.

Commissioner Waldahl commented he felt the current charges were adequate in view of the economy at present.

Mr. Gibson reviewed item #11- Hauler Compensation – Committee recommended calculating increased expense to haulers for delivery of Wadena County waste to locations other than the Wadena County Transfer Station. Mr. Gibson stated that the Committee would be considering the adjustment of tipping fees based on tonnage rather than mileage; they will report back to the Board after further reviewing of the situation.

Mr. Gibson reviewed item #12- Otter Tail County Solid Waste Facilities – Committee recommended viewing the New York Mills and Fergus Falls Solid Waste Facilities. Mr. Gibson suggested the Board view these Facilities within the next several months to help determine what to do in Wadena County.

Commissioner Stearns pointed out that the County was currently sending all household waste received at the Transfer Station to Gwinner on the by-pass load. He added that, under item #13, some counties receive \$0 for special assessments; Wadena County received approximately \$400,000; Hubbard County's assessment was approximately \$2,800,000; each county was unique in the way it was done.

Mr. Gibson reviewed item #14- Pick up of Wadena County Recycling Bins - due to the completion of full-time employee assistance from Otter Tail County, Wadena Hide & Fur had been contracted to pick up Wadena County Recycling Bins. Committee recommendation was to continue the use of Wadena Hide & Fur's services, as necessary. Mr. Gibson stated that Tom Paper, Wadena Hide & Fur, was very willing to cooperate in using their hook truck and setting a fair price for their services.

Mr. Gibson reviewed item #15 - Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) – Wadena County currently

contracts with Becker County to collect Wadena County's household hazardous waste. Mr. Gibson stated that the Committee's recommendation was to request Becker County conduct up to three HHW Collections within Wadena County in 2009.

Commissioner Stearns reviewed item #16 – Composting. He distributed background information from previous Solid Waste Director Deana Skov relating to composting at the Wadena County Transfer Station, stating that Ms. Skov had worked with the City of Wadena to develop a composting site. Commissioner Stearns also distributed a 1993 Contract for Deed stating that Wadena County agreed to “provide to the residents of Wadena County, without charge, compost facilities for lawn and garden waste, as well as brush”. He stated that the Committee recommendation was to continue the pursuit of an active composting program.

Mr. Gibson distributed item #17 – Minnesota Safety, Inc. Transfer Station Report. Mr. Gibson informed the Board that the company conducted the County's safety trainings as well as safety review of County sites. He requested the Board review the four pages of safety concerns, which would be addressed at their next Board Meeting. Mr. Gibson pointed out that the Committee's recommendation was to address all items listed by hiring contractors, when necessary, with Board input.

Board consensus was to reschedule Mr. Uring's presentation, as well as information on the 2009 Tax Forfeited Land Sale, until later on in the meeting due to the current delay in the agenda.

Motion by Stearns, seconded by Miller, to accept the Wadena County Solid Waste Committee Report,

Commissioner Waldahl questioned whether the motion would be approving an increase in Transfer Station fees listed under item #10.

Board consensus was that the Report was for information only with previous Board approval of the increase in the Transfer Station Petty Cash and till.

Motion carried.

Mr. Hanan informed the Board that the Counties that had discussed the potential expansion of the Perham Resource Recovery Center would be meeting at 10:00 a.m. in Perham on May 21, 2009.

The Board recommended Mr. Gibson plan to attend the meeting due to the fact that the Adjourned Board Meeting was scheduled for May 21, 2009; he would be scheduled earlier in the Meeting to present his information.

Bob Johnson, Office of the State Auditor, Moorhead Office, came before the Board informing them that prior to conducting the annual audit an Entrance Conference had to be held to discuss changes and responsibilities. He pointed out that there would not be as many changes for the 2008 Audit, pointing out that over the previous four to five years accounting standards had changed drastically. Mr. Johnson stated that one change currently being considered may affect the Single Audit process which may require the auditing of an additional program. He added that another big change was due to the implementation of GASB 45, which was the Other Post Employee Benefits (OPEB).

Mr. Johnson pointed out that he had held a Planning Meeting with the County's accounting staff on February 25, 2009, at which time the following items were addressed; talking with clients about documenting the risks over their internal controls - it was suggested that a Committee be set up to assess risks, which Mr. Johnson would be willing to come back and get a Committee started; GSAB 45/OPEB; change in the contract bidding law - MN Statute 471.345 stated that for any bids of \$100,000 and over sealed bids must be taken; FDIC Insurance Coverage and Safe Keeping of Investments.

Mr. Johnson reviewed the Engagement Letter of Services for the County's 2008 Audit with the Board, pointing out the County's responsibilities, such as safeguards against fraud.

Commissioner Miller requested an example of a high risk area.

Mr. Johnson responded that in some of the County's smaller Departments there was not a perfect segregation of duties. He pointed out that types of assets, such as cash, could be easy to take; another area would be notebook computers and gravel stock piles. Mr. Johnson stated that they would probably be in Wadena County to conduct the Audit in July.

Paul Friedrich, Trailbreakers Snowmobile Club, came before the Board and presented them with a handout indicating that the Club had requested from the DNR an additional 22 miles be added to the system. He also requested Board action on the Club's request for approval of their 4<sup>th</sup> Benchmark DNR payment request, County Sponsorship for the coming year and the Club's Application for the coming year, which could be different if the new miles were added.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Bounds, to approve the DNR Certification of Trail Closure Application, 4<sup>th</sup> Benchmark, submitted by the Trailbreakers Snowmobile Club in the amount of \$6,137.00, motion carried.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Bounds, to approve the request for Wadena County to be the Sponsor/ Pass Through Agency for the Trailbreakers Snowmobile Club for the upcoming year, motion carried.

Commissioner Miller questioned where the money came from.

Mr. Friedrich responded that the funds were generated from 1% of the gas tax, trail passes that were sold to snowmobilers and from snowmobile registrations.

Motion by Stearns, second Miller, to approve the DNR MN Snowmobile Trails Assistance Program Maintenance and Grooming Application for the Trailbreakers Snowmobile Club for 2009/2010 funding in the amount of \$61,370.00, motion carried.

Motion by Stearns, seconded by Waldahl, to approve the payment of \$5,000.00 to replenish the Courthouse Postage Meter, motion carried.

Motion by Stearns, seconded by Waldahl, to accept the Todd Wadena Community Corrections quarterly financial report, motion carried.



Parcels included: Bullard Township - 03.026.1020; North Germany - 08.010.1025, 08.010.1028; Red Eye Township - 10.013.1050, 10.020.1020; Wadena Township - 14.300.0410, 14.340.1060, 14.340.1150, 14.340.1160, 14.340.1170, 14.340.1340, 14.340.1350, 14.340.1360; Wing River Township - 15.034.1020; Aldrich City - 16.300.0770; Menahga City - 17.440.0290, 17.560.0250, 17.560.0280, 17.580.0060, 17.610.0040, 17.610.0100, 17.620.0270, 17.620.0280, 17.630.0150; Sebeka City - 19.350.0370; Verndale City - 21.030.5010, 21.380.0070; Wadena City - 22.005.3320, 22.440.0590, 22.470.0140, 22.470.1360, 22.531.0030, 22.600.0830, 22.610.0110, 22.770.0010, 22.770.0020, 22.770.0030, 22.780.1090.

Motion carried.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Stearns, to approve payment of the first half 2009 allocation to the Wadena County Soil & Water Conservation District in the amount of \$36,170.00, motion carried.

Commissioner Waldahl requested that there be a meeting involving the Department Heads and Board to discuss the 2009 budget. He stated that Todd Wadena Community Corrections would be cutting 7 ½% to 8 ½ % of the budget. Commissioner Waldahl also pointed out that the Board had not received any direction from AMC during their Legislative Conference.

Commissioner Stearns stated that at the AMC Conference the Board did learn that the House and Senate, controlled by the Democrats, did have income tax increases in their proposal without much change in Local Government Aid or County Program Aid. He pointed out that the Governor had indicated that he would not accept income tax increases, but did want cuts to Local Government Aid and County Program Aid. Commissioner Stearns added that he had discussed this with the AMC Director who stated that the counties should expect to receive 50% less in County Program Aid. Commissioner Stearns recommended the Board consider forming a Budget Committee if we are to expect a \$500,000 cut in Aid as it may have to involve a cut in personnel.

Commissioner Waldahl recommended that Plan A be a meeting with the Department Heads to get their input on where to cut and then go to Plan B if the Board needs to consider cuts in personnel or services.

Commissioner Stearns questioned if, during the Department Head Meeting the following day, the Department Heads could be requested to come up with ideas as to where to cut.

Commissioner Waldahl recommended that a joint meeting be held with the Department Heads so they could present their ideas, as which time the Board could present their ideas and the situation could be discussed. He added that he felt the discussion could be held at the Courthouse with the newspapers in attendance. Commissioner Waldahl added that we should be grateful for a place meet and use our County Buildings. He stated that if the County did receive a 25% or 50%, Department Heads should bring their ideas as to how they would run their Department.

Rin Porter, Verndale Sun, questioned whether County Program Aid or Local Government Aid went to all County Departments or just the General Fund.

Ms. West responded the County received County Program Aid which was distributed to the Funds that

were included on the County levy; the General Fund, Social Services Fund and the Highway Department. She added that the Solid Waste Fund was not included in the Tax Levy as it was funded through special assessments and tipping fees, which were restricted funds.

The Board set Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009, 8:30 a.m. as a Special Board Meeting to meet with County Departments for the purpose of discussing potential cuts to 2009 County Program Aid.

The Board recessed at 12:11 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 12:35 p.m.

Mr. Ullring came before the Board to continue discussion regarding the closing of the Verndale Highway Shop. He stated that he felt the issue of closing the Verndale Shop was just one small aspect of the Highway Department and he felt the prudent thing to do would be to receive public opinion as he still had not received any phone calls regarding the issue. Mr. Ullring distributed a letter he had received from WSB & Associates regarding a proposed Wadena County Highway Jurisdiction and Maintenance Service Area Study. He pointed out that this Study would provide information to the public as well as obtain the true sentiment of the residents about the Verndale Garage. Mr. Ullring added that the Study would also assist the County, the Highway Engineer and Assistant Highway Engineer as to where the Highway Department should be going. Mr. Ullring stated that in initiating the County Road Turn-Back to Townships a Jurisdictional Study would show the County what would be the best network of roads and how to care for them. He added that the Study would cost approximately \$15,000 to \$20,000.

Mr. Ullring stated that he had reviewed the Study with the State Aid Engineer who informed him that the County could recoup one-half of the cost of the Study through State Aid Allotment, which would cost the County less than \$10,000 for the Study which would take a comprehensive look at the County Highway operation. He added that he felt there were some efficiencies that may be highlighted that could pay for this amount in a relatively short time.

Commissioner Stearns requested clarification that Mr. Ullring was suggesting the Board solicit Requests for Proposals.

Mr. Ullring responded that this was correct.

Commissioner Waldahl commented that he felt the Board should wait to make a decision until after the Special Board Meeting with the Department Heads.

Mr. Ullring responded that he felt the Study would assist him in making the necessary cuts in his Department.

Commissioner Waldahl stated that at this time he felt the Board needed to see what the Department Head Meeting came up with.

Commissioner Bounds added that he agreed with Commissioner Waldahl as the Board needed to address the budget concerns. He added that it costs the County to stay in Staples, it costs the City of Verndale to plow the County roads within the City and that he could save money by opening the garage.

Commissioner Bounds stated that he felt the study was not good or bad, but he did not think it related to the Verndale Garage situation.

Commissioner Waldahl questioned whether a decision on the Verndale Highway Shop could wait until after the Board met with Department Heads as the plan maybe to eliminate all County highway shops.

Commissioner Bounds questioned what the agreement deadline was with the City of Staples.

Mr. Ulring responded that May 1<sup>st</sup> was the deadline; it was a two year contract which required a six month notice.

Don Klein, Staples Public Works Director, was present. He pointed out that he had a great working relationship with Mr. Ulring and that the deadline of May 1<sup>st</sup> was not a problem.

Commissioner Waldahl questioned whether it could be a 30-day notice.

Mr. Klein responded that it would be sufficient if the City knew in September or October.

Commissioner Miller stated that, in regards to the Study, the County had a Highway Engineer and Assistant Highway Engineer to determine issues.

Mr. Klein stated that under these economic times the public demanded collaborative. He added that knowing whether Wadena County would renew the lease two months in advance was ample time for the City to make plans for alternate use of that space.

Commissioner Miller stated that the main issue was getting snow removed in the heavy traffic area mainly by the Staples Tech School area. He added that the way things were now, if the particular vehicle was in Verndale, there could be a 15 minutes difference in timeliness with proper scheduling.

Commissioner Stearns presented the Board with a handout suggesting a compromise for the coming year regarding the situation of the closing of the Verndale Highway shop; renew the lease with the City of Staples to house a plow during the six winter months; do not sell the Verndale County Highway Garage; house the road grader in the Verndale Garage during the months it was used for gravel road grading only, do not heat this facility; contract again with the City of Verndale to plow all County Roads within the City limits. He added that no matter what the Board decided, not everyone was going to be happy about it.

Ken Moyer, Highway Department plow operator, commented that the ice problem there was a lot better than it used to be. He stated that because of the plow location there was a whole hour the County was paying him to do nothing.

Mr. Ulring presented the Board with the Annual Wadena County Highway Report for their review and asked that they contact him regarding any questions they may have concerning the Report.

Mr. Ulring requested Board consensus for him to proceed to obtain quotes on a used 2006 or newer car

with low mileage to replace a 1989 pickup. He suggested the present pickup be transferred, at no cost, to the Solid Waste Department, which currently did not have a vehicle.

Commissioner Stearns, Highway Department Liaison, stated that he was in favor of shifting vehicles down to other Departments but the only thing he had against the idea was that Solid Waste had a need for a pickup with a plow to snow plow out the facility. He pointed out that employees had been using their own pickups, which could be a liability issue. Commissioner Stearns added that at some point a pickup had to be purchased for Solid Waste, but this was not the time to be able to do that.

Board discussion was held regarding the use of the newly purchased skidsteer to plow snow at the Transfer Station.

Commissioner Miller suggested the Highway Department give the vehicle to the General Fund who would then sell the vehicle to the Solid Waste Fund, thus putting the funds into the General Fund.

Commissioner Waldahl recommended tabling a decision about the purchase of a vehicle until after meeting with the Department Heads.

Mr. Ulring presented the Board with quotes for liquid chloride for 2009;

Tri-City Paving	Calcium Chloride	.90	\$27,007.20
	Mag. Chloride		No bid
Dustcoating, Inc.	Calcium Chloride	.90	\$27,007.07
	Mag. Chloride	.75	\$22,506.00

Mr. Ulring recommended accepting the low quote of \$22,506.00 for Mag. Chloride from Dustcoating, Inc.

Mr. Ulring presented the Board with quotes for 2009 roadway striping;

Traffic Marking Service	\$28,944.97
AAA Striping Service	\$30,032.22
Swanston Equipment Co.	\$32,210.46
Tri-State Striping, Inc.	\$30,469.35

Mr. Ulring recommended accepting the low bid from Traffic Marking Service in the amount of \$28,944.97.

Motion by Stearns, seconded by Miller, to accept the low bid of \$22,406.00 from Dustcoating, Inc., for 2009 mag. chloride; accept the low bid of \$28,944.97 from Traffic Marking Service for 2009 roadway striping, as recommended by the Highway Engineer, motion carried.

Mr. Ulring informed the Board that through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Wadena County will receive an additional \$95,774 for the CSAH 23 Project, for a total of \$879,774.

Mr. Ulring informed the Board that the Region 5 Development Commission had requested Wadena County support their efforts through the Economic Development Agency (EDA) to conduct a five-

county trail inventory. The project was funded and had been started.

Mr. Ullring requested Board authorization to hire two full-time temporary workers for the summer to assist in summer maintenance, as in past years. He added that the two employees would be hired in June to work no more than 67 days each at an hourly rate of \$10.00 per hour.

Commissioner Waldahl commented that some counties and cities were not hiring part-time employees to save on budgets and questioned whether the road ditches could get by without being mowed.

Commissioner Miller questioned how much it cost to hire the part-time employees.

Mr. Ullring responded that it cost approximately \$6,700 each or a little over \$13,000 total employee cost to run the packer or road ditch mowing.

Commissioner Stearns stated that at the Weed Meeting it was brought up that the County had been criticized for not cutting their weeds in the road ditches. He questioned whether these two employees would help reduce that criticism.

Mr. Ullring stated that Malinda Dexter, Soil & Water Conservation District Director, had received a \$20,000 grant of which a portion went to the County to help offset some of their costs involved in mowing.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Stearns, to approve the hiring of two temporary seasonal full-time Highway Department employees to work no more than 67 days each at \$10.00 per hr.,

Commissioner Miller commented in the interest of being able to see deer, he appreciated the mowing; it was a safety issue.

Motion carried.

Mr. Ullring provided an update on the Extension Department remodeling at the Highway Department Building. He stated that progress was going well.

Discussion was held regarding the type of ceiling being installed in the Extension Office area.

Board consensus was for the Building Services Committee to select and approve a flooring supplier for carpet in the Extension Office at the Highway Department.

Mr. Ullring informed the Board that State approval had been received for the CSAH 23 Project. He stated that the bid opening had tentatively been scheduled during the June 18<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting.

Mr. Ullring requested Board approval to publicly open the bids several days prior to the Board Meeting so that his staff could review the bids and then bring it before the Board. He pointed out that this was a federal project; the Board did not award the Project as the State gave final approval; the County only approved the low bid.

Board discussion was held regarding the opening of the bids prior to the Board Meeting; saving of County Board per diems and mileage by having County Board members attend, public transparency and the need to have the press in attendance.

Mr. Ulring responded that the main purpose of his request was due to the staff time involved in reviewing the bid items. He pointed that Commissioners were not required to attend, but the County Auditor and State Aid representative would need to attend. Mr. Ulring added that the press could be in attendance as well as the bidders.

The Board authorized Mr. Ulring to open the CSAH 23 Project bids two days earlier than the June 18, 2009 Board Meeting.

Karen Nelson, Public Health Director, presented the Board with an agenda requesting Board action.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Bounds, to authorize the Public Health Nurse to sign a contract with aha Process, Inc., for an educational workshop/training program for the Drug Free Communities grant in the amount of \$2,100 plus travel expenses for September 2, 2009, motion carried

Motion by Bounds, seconded by Miller, to authorize the Public Health Director to sign a contract with Calm Computers in the amount of \$1,870 for the purchase of one-year movie theater public information effective May 8, 2009 to May 7, 2010 utilizing Rural Health Outreach grant funding, motion carried.

Motion by Stearns, seconded by Miller, to approve the temporary decrease in employment of Jill Davis, PHN, from 60% to 40% from June 15, 2009 through August 31, 2009 with resumption to her regular 60% employment September 1, 2009, motion carried.

Mr. Gibson presented the Board with the union approved 2009 Local 49'ers AFL-CIO Union Contract, which had not changed from the previous draft presented to the Board.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Stearns, to approve the 2009 Local 49'ers AFL-CIO Union Contract, as presented to the Board, and motion carried.

Mr. Gibson informed the Board there was a formal agreement between the County and Department Heads outlining wages and benefits. He added that part of the group under this agreement included the Non-Union employees, which Jean Birch, Sheriff's Department Administrative Assistant, was a part of. Mr. Gibson stated that Ms. Birch had requested to address the Board on the agreement.

Ms. Birch stated that she did not have any questions, but her concern was that the Non-Union employees had not had a voice in the matter nor the ability to discuss anything.

Mr. Gibson apologized for his oversight.

Motion by Stearns, seconded by Miller, to approve the 2009 Wage & Benefit Agreement between Wadena County and the Wadena County Department Head/Non-Union employees which outlined a 0% increase in salaries and benefits with no step increases for 2009, motion carried.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Stearns, to approve payment of the Board of Commissioner Bills in the amount of \$62,899.32, motion carried.

Motion by Bounds, seconded by Miller, to approve the payment of \$351.70 in reimbursement to Deputy Tim Stroeing for the purchase of two mounts for squad car laptops purchased from Go Mobile Now, motion carried.

Commissioners Reports:

Commissioner Waldahl: 3-County Public Health Meeting - SHIP Grant, included Morrison, Todd and Wadena. Todd Wadena Community Corrections - being cut 7 ½% in subsidies or 8 ½% cut in grants, depending on the State's decision, looking at 0% increase in wages for 2010 and 2011. Judge Robertson requested a key to the Courthouse front door. AMC Policy Meeting.

Commissioner Bounds: AMC Policy Meeting and Semi Annual Township Meeting.

Commissioner Miller: May 7, 2009, Thomastown Township Tower Meeting would be held.

Commissioner Stearns: Soil & Water Conservation District Meeting, Perham Resource Recovery Facility Meeting, Legislative Steering Conference, Solid Waste Committee Meeting.

Chairman Schermerhorn closed the Regular Board Meeting at 2:25 p.m. for preliminary consideration regarding allegations or charges in a criminal matter against County Solid Waste employees. Present: Chairman Schermerhorn, Commissioners Miller, Bounds, Waldahl and Stearns, Consultant Mike Gibson and Auditor/Treasurer Char West.

Chairman Schermerhorn reconvened the Regular Board Meeting at 3:11 p.m.

Motion by Miller, seconded by Waldahl, to adjourn the Regular Board of Commissioners Meeting at 3:15 p.m., motion carried.

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Charleen West, Auditor/Treasurer

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Dave Schermerhorn, Chairman