

WADENA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
JUNE 2, 2009, 9:00 A.M.

The Wadena County Board of Commissioners Meeting was held on Tuesday, June 2 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 William Stearns, Rodney Bounds, Ralph Miller, Lane Waldahl, and Auditor/Treasurer Char West.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Stearns, to amend the day's Agenda to include; 10:30 a.m. Bid Opening for Gravel Crushing, 10:45 a.m. Karen Nelson, Public Health Director, 11:15 a.m. Lee Brekke, County Assessor, Community Action Property Tax Abatements and Board of Equalization Meeting time change, f.) Special Board Meeting - Highway Road Tour, g.) Requests for FMLA, h.) Board Approval of Invoices paid on Auditor's Checks, motion carried.

Motion by Bounds, seconded by Stearns, to approve the Board Meeting Minutes of May 21, 2009, as presented, motion carried.

Mike Gibson, Consultant, distributed an agenda to the Board. He stated that Chris Harshaw, Temporary Transfer Station Supervisor, had requested the back pay the Board had approved during the May 21, 2009 Board Meeting be received as compensatory time, which computed to 55 hours, instead of pay. Mr. Gibson pointed out that the Personnel Policy authorized this position to accumulate up to 40 hours of compensatory time, however it would be to the County's financial advantage not to make this expenditure right now.

Discussion was held regarding the Personnel Policy guidelines relating to the accumulation of compensatory time by employees in this position.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Miller, to authorize compensation of back pay to Chris Harshaw, Temporary Transfer Station Supervisor, for 40 hours compensatory time and 15 hours in pay for back pay approved during the May 21, 2009 Board Meeting, motion carried.

Mr. Gibson informed the Board that he had talked with the Sheriff's Department regarding the possible location of video monitoring at the Transfer Station. He pointed out that this would provide video monitoring at the Sheriff's Office 24 hours a day as well as providing safety for the employees. Mr. Gibson stated that the cost of the video monitoring would be \$2,658.41, tax included, and that there would be no ongoing maintenance cost as this was a wireless link unit.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Stearns, to approve the purchase of a video monitor from Contact Radio Communications in the amount of \$2,658.41 to be installed at the Wadena County Transfer Station and viewed at the Sheriff's Department Dispatch Center, motion carried.

Mr. Gibson informed the Board that the new Bobcat that had been purchased for the Transfer Station several months earlier did not have a quick tech attachment for the hooks and bucket which would allow switching from one to the other without the operator getting off the machine. He added that the Transfer Station employees and the Building Maintenance Supervisor had pointed out that it was dangerous without this attachment. Mr. Gibson stated that, if this would have been part of the package at the time of purchase, it would have only cost an additional \$500.00; however, normally the cost would be \$1,700 after the fact. He added that Evergreen Equipment was willing to sell to the County the attachment for \$1,200.00.

Motion by Stearns, seconded by Bounds, to approve the purchase of a Quick Tech Attachment for the Transfer Station Bobcat from Evergreen Equipment at a cost of \$1,200.00, for the safety and convenience of changing buckets, motion carried.

Mr. Gibson presented the Board with a handout listing quotes he had received for the purchase of a hook truck for the Transfer Station. He added that he had also talked to DJ Polman from Polman Trucking for his advice on trucks. Mr. Gibson stated that the following quotes all met the recommended specifications;

Boyer Trucks, Rogers, MN

Used 2005 Sterling with 195,000 miles	\$69,900
Original hook system.	

New 2007 Sterling	\$79,750
Plus hook lift and mounting	\$30,549

Olympic Sales, West Fargo ND

New 2007 Sterling	\$73,000
Plus hook lift and mounting	\$31,000

New 2007 Freightliner	\$77,500
Plus hook lift and mounting	\$31,000

Twin City Mack & Volvo, Roseville MN

2009 Mack Truck	\$99,181
Hook lift and mounting	\$31,469

Peterbilt of Winona, Winona MN

2009 Peterbilt	\$129,750
Plus Hook lift and mounting	\$43,352

Mr. Gibson reported that Mr. Harshaw had informed him that there was a severe hydraulic fluid leak in the truck now being used at the Transfer Station; Juers Repair had been contacted and noted there was no fix for the problem; the whole hydraulic system would have to be replaced and they could not estimate a cost involved. He pointed out that one option was to eliminate the hook system and use it as a second truck and then purchase a new truck and hook system.

Mr. Gibson recommended considering buying a new truck rather than purchasing a new 2007 Sterling, which was no longer being manufactured, or a used truck, which would need to be replaced sooner. He pointed out that the Freightliner was available and had dropped their price just prior to the Board Meeting by \$4,500; long range Freightliner was the most stable.

Mr. Gibson advised the favorite at Polman was the Mack truck.

Commissioner Stearns commented that he and Commissioner Miller discussed that they would like to look at a Mack or a Freightliner. He recommended the Board review the specifications over the noon hour with a possible decision on the purchase of a truck later in the meeting.

Mr. Gibson present the Board with a handout outlining information relating to Solid Waste; in 1998 the Perham incinerator had been disabled and Wadena County designed and quickly constructed an economical receiving station to accommodate the Licensed Sanitation Haulers needs to empty their refuse loads; when the problems at the Perham incinerator were resolved and the facility was put back in service Wadena County continued to have the haulers dump their loads at the Wadena Transfer Station. He pointed out that the current facility was inefficient for today's needs. Mr. Gibson informed the Board that the County currently had a contract with Waste Management, Inc., for the time period of October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2011; for the purpose of providing trailers for Wadena County staff to fill with waste and Waste Management would then haul to the Perham Incinerator. He reviewed the calculation of the cost to the County for this contracted service pointing out that he felt approximately \$66,000 to \$70,000 in annual expenses could be reduced by continuing to have the Waste Hauler's deliver their loads directly to the Perham Incinerator as double handling of the waste was costly in time, equipment and personnel. Mr. Gibson pointed out that the current Transfer Station had not been designed for the heavy usage it had received; it was designed to serve the County in an emergency; the cost to bring the Transfer Station up to standards that would warrant heavy usage could exceed 2 to 3 million dollars. He added that this expense was not necessary as Wadena County had an opportunity to collaborate with one to four adjacent counties regarding Solid Waste and at recent meetings with the counties all appeared interested in working together and sharing resources. Mr. Gibson stated that he had been informed that the Ottertail County Commissioners would be sending dates available to meet with the Wadena County Board for the purpose of viewing the Otter Tail County Solid Waste Facility and discussing various ways to work together as it related to Solid Waste.

Board discussion was held on the possible collaboration with neighboring counties.

Chairman Schermerhorn stated that, due to the time factor, he requested to table the "Define Consultant's Perimeters" item on Mr. Gibson's agenda, until later in the meeting, which Mr. Gibson was in agreement of.

Char West, Auditor/Treasurer, requested Board designation of Mid Central Federal Savings Bank of Staples as an Official Depository for Wadena County for the purpose of depositing Friendly Rider Transit bus proceeds into. Also present were Bob Roggencamp, Transit Coordinator and Tammy Lupkes, Deputy Auditor/Treasurer. Ms. West questioned whether the Board had any questions for Mr. Roggencamp regarding the need for the depository.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Bounds to designate Mid Central Federal Savings Bank of Staples as an Official Depository for Wadena County, motion carried.

The Board recessed at 10:00 a.m.

The Board reconvened at 10:12 a.m.

Joel Uring, Highway Engineer, presented the Board with an agenda. He stated that the Board had previously mentioned the possibility of canceling the Special Board Meeting/Annual County Road Tour scheduled for June 4, 2009, in light of trying to cut costs. Mr. Uring stated that he would still hope to meet with Commissioner Miller and Commissioner Bounds, as new Commissioners, to cover some issues relative to the Highway Department.

Commissioner Bounds and Commissioner stated that June 4, 2009 did not work into their schedule but were open to scheduling a future date.

Mr. Uring informed the Board that periodically the Highway Department received requests to use County roads or right-of-way to hold special events such as marathons, motorcycle rides, parades, etc. He stated that he had designed a Special Events Permit for the Board to review to cover these special events held on Wadena County right-of-way. Mr. Uring pointed out that there were concerns regarding safety of participants, traffic through the areas, liability insurance coverage and cleanup following the events. He recommended the use of a Permit and the possibility of a \$35 fee to cover administration costs involved in having these events. Mr. Uring stated that he had already reviewed the Permit with the Sheriff and County Attorney and would meet with Ms. West to compare it with the Permit previously used and report back to the Board.

Mr. Uring requested Board consent to obtain quotes on a used 2006 or newer car with less than 35,000 miles for the use of Highway employees. He pointed out that this vehicle would replace a 1989 Chevy pickup with about 128,000 miles on it currently in use, which could then be transferred to the General Fund, at no cost, and transferred to the Solid Waste fund for a fee, for their use. Mr. Uring stated that if the Board was in agreement he would like to pursue it and if not, the subject would be dropped.

Commissioner Stearns questioned whether the 1989 pickup had a plow unit on it.

Mr. Uring responded that it did not.

Commissioner Bounds stated that due to the County's financial crisis and it not being a necessity at this point, he was not in favor of Mr. Uring's proposal.

Commissioner Stearns stated that he was in agreement with Commissioner Bounds and was not in favor of the purchase at this time.

Discussion was held as to the use of Highway Department funds and the reimbursement process of state and federal funds to the Highway Department.

Commissioner Stearns questioned whether funds could be transferred between the General Revenue Fund and Highway Fund and would those funds have to be reimbursed.

Ms. West responded that funds could permanently be transferred between the General Revenue

and Highway Fund if they were local tax dollars and not state or federal construction dollars. She pointed out that she and Mr. Ullring had previously discussed this option.

Board consensus was for Mr. Ullring not to proceed with the purchase of a vehicle.

Mr. Ullring opened the following Gravel Crushing Annual Bids at 10:30 a.m. He stated that the Engineer's estimate was \$68,870.00.

Vogt Dirt Service	\$82,005.00
Northland Aggregate	\$77,106.00

Mr. Ullring recommended accepting the low 2009 Gravel Crushing Bid of \$77,106.00 from Northland Aggregate.

Motion by Bounds, seconded by Stearns, to accept the low 2009 Gravel Crushing Bid of \$77,106.00 from Northland Aggregate for the crushing and stockpiling of 20,000 yards of gravel, as recommendation by the Highway Engineer, motion carried.

Mr. Ullring informed the Board that the Extension Department had moved into the renovated office space at the Highway Department and were please with the facility. He added that he and Jim Carlson, Extension Director, were working together on putting up some signing. Mr. Ullring stated that there was a need for more parking for both employees and visitors pointing out that it would be advantageous to pave the parking area on the north and south sides of the building to eliminate the amount of dirt and sand tracked into the building. He stated that they had obtained several estimates and the cost would be approximately \$30,000, which would exhaust the Highway Department Building Improvement Fund; it would probably cost less now to pave the area than in the future. Mr. Ullring stated that estimates had been obtained from Anderson Brothers and Howard's Driveway and both estimates were very close.

Board discussion was held regarding the advertisement for bids or quotes for the paving of the Highway Department parking lot and whether there were any other projects in the area that could include this paving.

Motion by Stearns, seconded by Miller, to authorize the advertisement for quotes to pave the north and south side of the Highway Department Building, motion carried.

Mr. Ullring informed the Board that he would be out of the office from June 8th through the 22nd.

Karen Nelson, Public Health Director, requested Board authorization to sign a contract with South Country Health Alliance (SCHA).

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Bounds, to authorize the Public Health Director to sign a contract with South Country Health Alliance (SCHA) as a provider of public health services at SCHA rates effective June, 2009 with automatic renewal annually from the signature date, motion carried.

Ms. Nelson presented the Annual Health Report to Commissioners Bounds and Miller.

Deana Skov, Zoning/Parks Director, requested approval of a Resolution for the payment of an excavation invoice involved in demolition of a dwelling and removal of the mechanics lien on the property for a total amount of \$3,622.00 plus interest.

There was discussion on the necessity of an interest rate charged with a recommendation to use a 3% interest rate.

RESOLUTION

COMMISSIONER Stearns *MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:*

WHEREAS, on January 6, 2009, the Wadena County Board of Commissioners approved the demolition of a dwelling structure on property located at: 16952 State Hwy. 227, Sebeka, MN 56477, described as: the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter except the East 118 feet (PID# 07-032-3030), which is also located in shoreland within 300 feet of a river; and,

WHEREAS, a quote from Corbin-Pickar Excavating was accepted to perform the demolition and removal of the dwelling structure; and,

WHEREAS, the removal of the structure has been completed and a request for payment has been received;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the County of Wadena authorizes payment for the demolition and removal of the structure described above in the amount of \$3450.00 to Corbin-Pickar Excavating, 17631 300th Street, Sebeka, MN 56477, to be paid from the Shoreland Reserve Fund # 01-103-5340;

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that the County of Wadena authorizes the placing of a Mechanic's Lien for said demolition on the property described above in the amount of \$3450.00, as well as for disposal fees of \$172.00 charged at the Wadena County Demolition Landfill, for a total balance of \$3,622.00, and at a rate of 3% interest for the duration of the Lien.

COMMISSIONER Bounds *SECONDED, AND THE SAME CARRIED.*

ADOPTED THIS 2nd *DAY OF* June , 2009, *BY THE WADENA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS.*

ATTEST:

Charleen West, Auditor/Treasurer

David Schermerhorn, Chairman

Ms. Skov informed the Board that the Planning Commission had received one application for a Conditional Use Permit for Daniel and Tamatha Gilster for a children's daycare in Meadow Township, which the Commission recommended approval of. She read the resolution to the Board.

RESOLUTION

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

WHEREAS: Various organizations and groups request to use the county road right-of-way to hold special events such as marathons, motorcycle rides, parades, etc. and,

WHEREAS: Wadena County and in particular the Highway Department has jurisdiction over the road right-of-way and,

WHEREAS: There are safety concerns for both the participants and the traveling public as well as general issues that need to be addressed when special events are held within the county road right-of-way.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The Wadena County Board of Commissioners hereby authorize the creation and administration of a "Special Events Permit" to address safety concerns and general issues when a special event is held within the county road right-of-way. The County Engineer shall administer and track all permits issued.

Commissioner Miller second the motion and the same carried.

Adopted at Wadena, Minnesota.

Attest: _____
Charleen West, Auditor/Treasurer Dave Schermerhorn, Chairman

Motion by Stearns, seconded by Waldahl, to approve the payment of \$1,250.00 to the Old Wadena Society for their first half 2009 Appropriation, motion carried.

Motion by Stearns, seconded by Waldahl, to approve the payment of \$45,293.50 to the Kitchigami Regional Library for their first half 2009 Levy Appropriation, motion carried.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Stearns, to approve Family Medical Leave as requested by Kelly Haugen, Sheriff's Department, beginning June 3, 2009 for up to 12 weeks, and to approve Family Medical Leave as requested by Gerald Horner, Highway Department, beginning June 8, 2009 for up to 12 weeks, motion carried.

Motion by Stearns, seconded by Bounds, to approve payment of the following invoices on Auditor checks: Wadena License Bureau - \$482.00 – Assessors Office, Minnesota Counties Insurance Trust - \$58.52 and Curries TV & Appliance \$1,583.44 - LCD TV - Courts, motion carried.

Lee Brekke, County Assessor, reminded the Board of the County Board of Equalization Meeting scheduled for June 15, 2009. He pointed out that an error had been made on the Equalization Notices sent stating that the County Board Meeting would start at 9:00 a.m. Mr. Brekke stated that the Department of Revenue had informed him that the Commissioners would have to convene the Meeting at 9:00 a.m. to address anyone coming before the Board at that time and then could recess until 12:30 p.m., the previously scheduled meeting time.

Chairman Schermerhorn set the Board of Equalization Meeting for June 15, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. in the Board of Commissioners Room.

Mr. Brekke presented the Board with a copy of MN Statute 256E.31 which outlined property tax exemption of certain properties. He pointed out that this statute addressed the Board's May 21st questions relating to the Application for Abatement for Ottertail-Wadena Community Action.

Motion by Stearns, seconded by Waldahl, to approve the Application for Abatement for tax exemption 2008 payable 2009 for Ottertail-Wadena Community Action Council for parcel #22.600.0060, motion carried.

Brian Nasi, South Country Health Alliance (SCHA), Chief Executive Officer, came to the Board to provide a SCHA update and review a power point handout. He pointed out that the biggest concern was the financial performance of SCHA and reviewed steps that were being taken to minimize costs such as Interactive Television. Mr. Nasi pointed out that the down side to ITV was the lack of opportunity to build rapport with other members. He added that due to financial loss SCHA held off on a lot of hiring that would have been done in 2008, however, they were at 40 employees and planned to build up to 69 employees to do the work in-house rather than paying expensive consultants. Mr. Nasi stated that due to the staffing adjustment, SCHA was running out of space at the existing facility and were renting additional space 1 ½ miles away. He also added that SCHA was working on re-doing their name and logo for a better understanding of who SCHA was and what SCHA did.

Commissioner Waldahl pointed out the need for hospitals and clinics to improve their coding; if the VA could do it from Brainerd to Minneapolis, it seemed local this should be able to be accomplished through SCHA.

Mr. Nasi responded there were limits on the amount of time in which the claims were completed; some nursing facilities generate their data, then sent it to a clearing house and then back; SCHA was working hard to correct this.

Commissioner Waldahl informed Mr. Nasi that Wadena County had started a RAP Program and when a grant application had been sent to SCHA for funding they were informed that SCHA did not have grant funds available for Wadena County; it was found out that SCHA had provided another southern county with grant funds. He pointed out that even though Wadena County was a small county, when SCHA needed money, Wadena County went out of its way to provide SCHA the funds needed and was concerned to hear that SCHA gave someone else the grant.

Mr. Nasi responded that he would check into the situation.

Commissioner Waldahl also addressed the issue of space; Wadena County did not want to see SCHA buy a large building, then not be able to pay for it and come back to the counties requesting more money.

Commissioner Bounds questioned whether any other counties were requesting to joint SCHA.

Mr. Nasi responded there were two counties that tried to get into another provider, but couldn't get a Single Plan option so they backed out; SCHA did talk to them about joining, however, it was at a bad time for SCHA due to the financial situation. He added that SCHA was also approached by 14 southwestern counties who actually solicited Prime West and South Country but at that time SCHA had a full plate of issues; this needed to be revisited.

Commissioner Bounds questioned whether there were any counties who want to get out of SCHA.

Mr. Nasi responded that he had not received any feedback on any counties requesting to leave SCHA.

Commissioner Stearns stated that the Finance Committee had discussed the question of whether the counties on the buy-in process would be able to pay in December 2009 instead of January 2010, as it would be advantageous for the Plan.

Ms. West responded that Wadena County could consider the earlier payment; previously the funds were transferred to Social Services the last meeting of the year and then wired to SCHA on January 2nd of the following year.

Commissioner Waldahl questioned how much SCHA paid for their per diem.

Chairman Schermerhorn responded that it was \$125 per diem and he felt that going to a meeting from Sebeka to Wadena, considering the conditions, this was high. He pointed out that this was just for information to Mr. Nasi.

The Board recessed at 12:00 noon.

The Board reconvened at 12:15 p.m.

Mr. Gibson returned to the Board informing them that the Transfer Station received TV's and appliances, which Jacks Family Recycling had previously had been contracted to pick up, as well as metals; the Contract expired 12/31/08. He added that Wadena Hide & Fur had indicated that they would pay \$20 per ton for metals, which was the same price at Jacks. Mr. Gibson added that Wadena Hide & Fur stated they did not want items such as refrigerators due to the Freon in them and recommend the County certified an employee to remove the Freon. He pointed out that Sean Uselman, Building Maintenance Supervisor, was certified, however, the County would

have to invest approximately \$1,500 in equipment for this process. Mr. Gibson stated that after the Freon was removed, Wadena Hide & Fur would pay the County \$20 a ton.

Chairman Schermerhorn advised it would be wise to check with Otter Tail County to see if they had the equipment.

Mr. Gibson stated that he would check out the options, research and report back to the Board.

The Board held further discussion on collaboration with surrounding County Solid Waste Departments.

Mr. Gibson addressed with the Board his agenda item "Define Consultant's Perimeters". He stated that he did not want to do what the Board did not want him to do. Mr. Gibson stated that since some issues had come up, such as a potential union grievance, which he was able to avoid. He wanted to clear the air at this time rather than have more issues come up.

Commissioner Bounds stated that he had talked with Mr. Gibson; he started out with Solid Waste and then Highway concerns came up, which had ended now, and then the Solid Waste issues. He stated that the Board needed to figure out what they wanted to have. Commissioner Bounds stated that the position of County Coordinator was eliminated for savings and at what point does the Board say the position is cut to zero or decide what to do. He stated that Mr. Gibson should not address any other issues except Solid Waste and once that was done then the position would be done and if the Board wanted to do anything else they would bring him back in.

Mr. Gibson responded that he felt a committed to Solid Waste and had been requested to attend the Perham Incinerator Meetings which grows into brainstorming with those at the meetings to get something going regarding collaboration with several counties. Mr. Gibson questioned if he was working out of his perimeters if he proceeded with this.

Commissioner Bounds responded he felt probably so because Mr. Gibson was not directed by the Board to speak to collaboration issues. He also stated that the Department Heads must have had some reason that they eliminated that position; they felt the \$70,000 savings was needed; when do we wean ourselves off of Mr. Gibson working with the County and let the new Transfer Station employees take over and go forward.

Mr. Gibson responded that he would be done that day if the Board so desired, however, if there was something that the Board wanted him to do, they could ask him and he consider it.

Commissioner Stearns stated that this Board did give Mr. Gibson direction during their April 7, 2009 Board Meeting, under the Solid Waste Committee proposal, which stated that Mr. Gibson was given direction to contact surrounding County Boards to see if they were interested in collaborating; the Solid Waste Committee recommended and Board approved. He pointed out that this Board did approve Mr. Gibson to do exactly what he was doing; that was not outside of what he was to do.

Commissioner Miller stated that he agreed with Mr. Bounds and thanked Commissioner Stearns for his information about the original Board action of April 7th. He credited his recommendation at the last Board meeting to charge Mr. Gibson's expense to Highway or Solid Waste or whichever Department that was responsible for his input. Commissioner Miller stated he did have concerns.

Mr. Gibson stated that he would stand by the Board's decision, so if there was another issue relating to human resources he would pass it on to the Board.

Chairman Schermerhorn questioned the Board as to whether they were requesting Mr. Gibson to pass on future human resource situations to the Board and those Board Members that do want the situation passed on to them, are they trained to make a decision.

Commissioners Stearns and Commissioner Waldahl responded that they were not.

Commissioner Bounds stated that he felt the Board should not get involved since there were Department Heads.

Chairman Schermerhorn stated that there were things that Department Heads could not handle.

Commissioner Stearns pointed out that when the County did not have the human resources consultant position, thousands of dollars were spent in mediation of such situations.

Chairman Schermerhorn questioned the Board; if Mr. Gibson brought issues before the Board, who did they have to turn them over to so they were handled in a timely manner.

Commissioner Stearns reminded the Board that they did have a Department Head come before the Board and recommend the hiring of a consultant out of the cities for \$100 per hr. plus mileage. He questioned the Board whether a Department Head's personnel issue could go through Ms. West prior to it being presented to Mr. Gibson with it being paid for out of that Department Head's budget.

Commissioner Bounds stated that some day the Board would need to discuss what they were looking for; a position similar to what Mr. Gibson was hired for, what hours would be needed or was the Board going to let Department Heads handle the situation.

Chairman Schermerhorn questioned Ms. West if she was willing to take on the extra duties of receiving personnel concerns from Department Heads.

Ms. West responded that she had previously been that person and would be willing to be available again but her concern was that she did not have the expertise to assist Department Heads with certain personnel situations.

Further discussion was held regarding Department Heads, in need of personnel assistance, would not have the expense budgeted for within their budget as it had previously been budgeted for the

labor attorney through the General Fund Central Services budget. Discussion was also held regarding sharing human resources services with a neighboring county.

Commissioner Stearns stated that some of the Coordinator budget needed to be retained for human resource services. He also pointed out that the Board needed to discuss employee contract negotiations that had to be done and who the Board would appoint to negotiate.

Commissioner Waldahl questioned Ms. West whether, in state statute, dealing with human resources fell under the Auditor/Treasurer position; pointing out that she was an elected official.

Ms. West responded that the handling of County's human resource issues was not a statutory obligation of the Auditor/Treasurer position. She pointed out that in Wadena County many duties fall on the Auditor/Treasurer that were not a responsibility of the position; but like everyone else, we all try to do what needed to be done.

Board discussion was held regarding where the human resources expenses should be paid out of.

Mr. Gibson pointed out to the Board that one of his directives, when hired by the previous Board, was to research whether Wadena County had a need for the position he held and his observation was that previously human resource duties were directed to the Auditor/Treasurer, which took away from that positions duties. He pointed out that because of the limited ability of Department Heads in this area, the County did not have to go to high priced professionals; it was not due to anyone being inept, the Board can not do it all on their own, the Board's responsibility was too oversee the operation in a global view, the Board needs someone in the building. He added that just the fact that the Board was discussing working with other entities to provide this service, a commitment had been made that the County needed someone.

Chairman Schermerhorn clarified whether the Board was requesting Mr. Gibson to continue to work on the Solid Waste issues.

The Board members each responded positively.

Chairman Schermerhorn clarified with the Board as to personnel issues; employees will go to Ms. West and Ms. West will make the decision as to whether the issue warrants contacting Mr. Gibson to address the issue. He questioned whether there was going to be hard feelings.

Board consensus was that they were in agreement of the procedure.

Board discussion was held relating to where human resource expenses were to be paid out of.

Ms. West pointed out that funds had been budgeted for such expenses through the Coordinator budget and had previously been budgeted through the Central Services budget, which had included labor attorney negotiation expenses. She reminded the Board that a decision should be made as to who they would appoint to conduct negotiations so funds could be budgeted.

Commissioner Waldahl stated that the Board needed to question Mr. Gibson as to whether he would be willing to conduct negotiations for 2010.

Commissioner Bounds stated that the Board needed to make a decision on what to expect out of a coordinator, whether it be Mr. Gibson or whomever, the pros and cons and whether the County needed a full time coordinator.

Chairman Schermerhorn stated that he agreed with Commissioner Bounds, that the previous Board had already directed Mr. Gibson to provide the information once he had completed his duties.

Commissioner Wahldahl pointed out that the decision and budgeting of a coordinator/human resource position would be addressed during the development of the 2010 budget.

Chairman Schermerhorn reminded the Board that Ms. West had indicated that a decision needed to be made that day as to who would be conducting negotiations.

Ms. West distributed to the Board a handout outlining the proposed 2009 Budget cuts, developed by the Department Heads, which was in response to the anticipated 2009 Unallotment. She pointed out that a question mark had been placed beside the Central Services Union Negotiations Department budget.

Commissioner Stearns pointed out to the Board that it was being proposed to eliminate the remaining \$70,000 budget in the Coordinator budget and he felt the \$70,000 needed to be transferred to the Central Services Union Negotiations budget to cover negotiation and human resource expenses.

Commissioner Waldahl questioned Mr. Gibson what it had cost the County to have him conduct negotiations in 2008.

Mr. Gibson responded that it took approximately 250 hours or \$15,000 and with the labor attorney he periodically consulted with it would total approximately \$22,000.

Commissioner Waldahl questioned whether the Board wanted Mr. Gibson to conduct the 2010 negotiations or were there Commissioners willing to do negotiations.

Commissioner Bounds responded that he did not feel someone on the Board should conduct negotiations but he did feel one or two Commissioners could participate in the process.

Mr. Gibson advised the Board that there was a danger in having a Board member involved in negotiations as the Board member could be cornered into making a commitment either that they shouldn't or feel they have to make; a neutral person could go back to the Board and they could then brainstorm together.

Board discussion was held regarding previous negotiation procedures used.

Commissioner Waldahl and Commissioner Stearns stated that they felt Commissioners should not be involved in negotiations based on previous experience.

Motion by Stearns, seconded by Waldahl, to retain Mike Gibson services for the purpose of the union contracts in 2009,

Commissioner Bounds stated that he felt the Board needed to discuss whether there would be a change in the Coordinator position.

Board discussion was held regarding the time lines of union negotiations.

Chairman Schermerhorn called for a role call vote.

Commissioner Waldahl, Commissioner Stearns, Chairman Schermerhorn, Aye
Commissioner Bounds, Commissioner Miller – nay,

Motion carried.

Mr. Gibson advised the Board that he could not accept under these circumstances.

Board discussion returned to the proposed 2009 Budget cuts in response to the 2009 Unallotment. Board direction was to move the \$70,000 proposed budget reduction to the Central Services Union Negotiations budget.

Ms. West reviewed the handout outlining the Department Head's recommendation for budget reductions which reflected a \$629,761 reduction, now less \$70,000. She also presented the Board with individual Budget amendments for the Highway Department and Public Health, which were too numerous to include in the initial handout, pointing out that these documents also required Board approval.

Commissioner Stearns stated that the MCIT dividend of \$50,000 was actually a credit and should be removed from the budget expense reductions which would change the total reduction to \$509,761. He added that the dividend would not be received until the fall of 2009 and the County could not count on receiving those funds.

Motion by Stearns, seconded by Miller, to approve the Wadena County 2009 Budget Reductions Budget Amendment, including the Highway Department and Public Health Department Budget Reductions in the amount of \$509,761.00, motion carried.

The Board returned to the quotes regarding the purchase of a truck for the Transfer Station.

Commissioner Stearns stated that he felt the decision should be made between the Mack truck and the Freightliner truck.

Commissioner Schermerhorn questioned each Board Member as to which two they would like for consideration.

Commissioner Miller responded the Mack or the Sterling; Commissioner Bounds responded the Mack; Commissioner Waldahl responded the Freightliner or Mack.

Mr. Gibson reported that he had just received a phone call from Twin City Mack informing him that they would reduce their price of \$99,181 by \$5,000 for a total cost of \$94,181.

Motion by Bounds, seconded by Stearns, to approve the purchase of a 2009 Mack Truck, which met specifications, from Twin City Mack & Volvo, Roseville, MN, in the amount of \$94,181.00, a reduction of \$5,000.00 from the original quote, motion carried.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Miller, to approve the purchase of a Hook Lift and Mounting for the 2009 Mack Truck from Twin City Mack, in the amount of \$31,469.00, motion carried.

Commissioners Reports:

Commissioner Bounds: no report, but questioned whether a letter of thanks was sent to applications for the Transfer Station positions who were not hired, response 'yes'.

Commissioner Miller: Someone had called concerning the noise, smoke and dust at the Warren Seidiman Gravel Pit, he had informed the Planning and Zoning Director. Received a newspaper article in the mail, but did not know who sent it; it was a copy of a "debt to society" cost \$60/per night where prisoners were being billed for their stay in the County, City or State facility.

Commissioner Waldahl: Family Services Collaborative meeting - have enough funds to continue programs currently in Wadena County; CHAMPS Meeting; NJPA Meeting; EMS Meeting; Stearns County, due to budgeting in the State, made mandatory a 1-day furlough for their employees; Todd Wadena Community Corrections Meeting - grant funds could be cut up to 9%, They have a position opening which would not being filled at this time.

Commissioner Stearns: South Country Health Alliance Finance Meeting - figures show they were in the black.

Chairman Schermerhorn: no report

Commissioner Miller stated that the tower in Thomastown Township would not be located on the property first chosen as the location as it did not meet requirements; a new location was being checked out.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Bounds, to approve payment of the Board of Commissioner bills in the amount of \$91,944.05, motion carried.

Motion by Bounds, seconded by Miller, to adjourn the Board of Commissioners Meeting at 2:19 p.m., motion carried.

Charleen West, Auditor/Treasurer

David Schermerhorn, Chairman