

WADENA COUNTY ADJOURNED BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
SEPTEMBER 17, 2009 9:00 A.M.

The Wadena County Adjourned Board of Commissioners Meeting was held on Thursday, September 17, 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 Rodney Bounds, Lane Waldahl, Ralph Miller, William Stearns, Auditor/Treasurer Char West, Consultant Mike Gibson, and Otter Tail County Solid Waste Director Mike Hanen.

Motion by Stearns, seconded by Miller, to amend the day's Agenda to include, if time allowed, e.) MN State Community & Tech College, Wadena Campus, Occupancy Agreement, f.) Graham Refrigeration Invoice – Replacement of Sheriff's Dept. Air Conditioner, g.) Wadena Ag Society Invoice – Fair Ground Door Repairs, 6.) Deana Skov, Zoning/Parks Director – ISTS Grant Application and 7.) Joel Ulring, Highway Engineer, Personnel – Leave of Absence Request, motion carried.

The Board tabled action on the September 1, 2009 Regular Board Meeting Minutes, September 10, 2009 Special Board Meeting Minutes and the September 14, 2009 Special Board Meeting minutes.

Mr. Gibson requested Board approval of the Disposal Hauler's License Applications for Wadena Hide and Fur, Killians Sanitation, LLC, Waste Management of Minnesota, G&T Sanitation, and City Dray, Inc. pointing out that their current Licenses expire on September 30, 2009. He stated that he had not yet received a renewal Application from City Sanitation.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Stearns, to approve the renewal Disposal Hauler's License Applications for Wadena Hide & Fur, Killians Sanitation, LLC, Waste Management of Minnesota, G&T Sanitation, City Dray, Inc.; to include City Sanitation contingent upon receipt of their Application and that the Licenses were approved if all of the bills to the Haulers were paid up to date, motion carried.

Mr. Gibson requested clarification of the start date of the wage adjustment for Temporary Transfer Station Supervisor Chris Harshaw; the previous Board motion was made retroactive to the release of the previous Supervisor and not to the date of the Board motion. He stated that he felt confident that the Board's intent was to make this action retroactive back to the release of the previous Supervisor, March 26, 2009, as Mr. Harshaw was filling those duties as of that date. Mr. Gibson advised there needed to be clarification for the State Auditor that the intention of the action went back to the date Mr. Harshaw took over, which was March 26, 2009.

Motion by Stearns, seconded by Waldahl, to clarify that it was the intention of the Board to pay the Temporary Transfer Station Supervisor, Chris Harshaw, at the Supervisor level of pay as of March 26, 2009, as the Board felt he was in fact acting as the Supervisor as of that date, motion carried.

Mr. Gibson informed the Board that Mr. Harshaw had requested two weeks Leave of Absence for medical reasons; he had accumulated sufficient sick and vacation time for this. He pointed out that arrangements with Otter Tail County had been made for sufficient staff time at the Transfer Station during this time.

The Board thanked Mr. Gibson and Mr. Harshaw for the information.

Commissioner Stearns pointed out that there had been employee illness at the Transfer Station and questioned how that was being handled.

Mr. Gibson responded that Staff were able to cover the duties and that Otter Tail County would be providing additional staff. He also reviewed repairs that needed to be completed at the site.

Mr. Gibson updated the Board on the recycling bin/garbage problem; the main problem had been in Wing River pointing out that the Staff had compiled a 5 page list of names, the date of the bags, how many bags and in what bin which identified who was depositing the bags of garbage in the recycling bins. He stated that he had talked with the County Attorney who had advised that a letter of violation could not be written until it was clarified by the Sheriff that there was in fact a violation. Mr. Gibson added that the Sheriff's Department advised that they would like to see a letter that included 1) the Board would consider a charge be made for each bag of garbage and 2) site the Statute violation in the letter advising the individual that if this continued, they could be prosecuted and receive a fine of up to \$300 plus they would still have to pay for the bags of garbage. He questioned whether the Board would want a letter to go out signed by the Board Chairman representing the full Board.

Commissioner Waldahl responded that he felt a letter should be sent but the Board needed to decide how much to charge per bag.

Mr. Hanen stated that Otter Tail County had had the same problem; pointing out MN Statute 115.A which stated that an individual could be charged not less than two times or more than 5 times the cost of cleaning up their illegal garbage disposal. He added that Otter Tail County calculated out the actual cost of cleanup; advised the individual that if they pay by a set date they could pay two times the clean up cost and if they did not pay within the allotted time they were charge five times the cost and advised them that it was a violation of the County Ordinance which was a misdemeanor punishable up to 90 days in jail and/or a \$1,000 fine.

Discussion was held as to whether Wadena County's Solid Waste Ordinance specifically addressed the issue of illegal garbage disposal and the ramifications; further details of Otter Tail County's procedures was also discussed.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Bounds, to follow State Statute pertaining to individuals who illegally disposal of garbage in Wadena County and work with Otter Tail County to amend the Wadena County Solid Waste Ordinance;

Commissioner Miller questioned whether the Board action would be retroactive. He stated that there may be a misunderstanding of what could be put in the container.

Mr. Gibson pointed out that the reaction from the general public was that people were very angry, wondering where the bin was and wanting violators charged.

Ms. West questioned whether Otter Tail County's Solid Waste Ordinance followed the State Statute.

Mr. Hanen responded that it did not directly; the County actually utilized the State Statute first and this was how the charge was for two times the cost; then the Ordinance made it illegal for anyone to take their garbage and put it in someone else's container where it did not belong.

Commissioner Waldahl clarified that an Ordinance could follow State Statute or stricter; it could not be less strict.

Ms. West clarified that Wadena County would be able to follow State Statute even if it was not specifically addressed in the County's Solid Waste Ordinance pointing out the Otter Tail County letter may have to be somewhat revised.

Commissioner Stearns informed the Board that he had briefly reviewed the Wadena County Solid Waste Ordinance which did not refer to individuals but to Solid Waste Haulers; advising that the Wadena County Solid Waste Ordinance would have to be amended if the Board wanted to have more that the State Statute. He added that Wadena County could only enforce the State Statute at this time but should consider amending the Ordinance to include stricter charges.

Motion carried.

Mr. Gibson would calculate out the County cost to dispose of the garbage illegally disposed of and return to the Board.

Mr. Gibson relayed to the Board the Solid Waste Committee's following recommendations:

- More recycling bins needed - it would be beneficial to have two bids in several locations as well as bin located in Verndale.
- Sebeka School received a grant and requested a recycling bin be put by the school, could be used for the dietary department and a training tool for students. The Committee recommended purchasing four 22' recycle bins for a total cost of \$24,800.
- Purchase of cardboard recycling bins as they fill up the quickest; Committee recommended purchasing five cardboard recycling bins for a total cost of \$27,000.
- Consideration to purchase a hook truck "pup" trailer.

Mr. Gibson requested Mr. Hanen explain how Otter Tail County used their "pup" trailer.

Mr. Hanen stated that a “pup” trailer was a trailer that was pulled behind a recycling truck. He pointed out that Otter Tail County used their “pup” trailer to haul two recycling bins out and back to the site which saved them a lot of time and money; it allowed the driver to service two sites in one trip.

Mr. Gibson stated that the Committee recommended the purchase of the following: 1-hook truck “pup” trailer for \$22,600; 4-four-compartment 22’ recycle bins for \$24,800; 5-cardboard bins for \$27,000 for a total cost of \$74,400. He pointed out that funds were available for the purchase.

Ms. West requested copies of the quotes Mr. Gibson had obtained for the equipment.

Commissioner Miller questioned whether a motion could be made on each item individually pointing out that he felt perhaps the County was jumping in more than necessary with the trailer.

Further discussion was held on the pros and cons of the purchase of a “pup” trailer.

Mr. Hanen pointed out that the County would recoup the savings over a period of time which could be calculated out.

Commissioner Bounds stated that not all the bins were full at the same time; he was not sure of the schedule.

Mr. Gibson responded that the County had been doing recycling for sometime and Committee consensus was that it was the time to purchase a trailer which offered the County the potential to expand now.

Commissioner Waldahl pointed out that since the County recycling bins had been distributed throughout the County, recycling had increased.

Mr. Gibson stated that the Community needed to be educated in how to recycle; this was the time to purchase a trailer.

Commissioner Stearns stated that in the development of the 4-Counties Master Plan it was indicated that recycling rates in 2003 for Wadena County were 28.7% and in 2007 it was 54%. He added that the citizens were taking advantage of the bins and that the Solid Waste Committee had discussed lots of ways to accommodate cardboard recycling; Otter Tail County used a garbage packer truck and separate bins; they collect only cardboard. Commissioner Stearns questioned Mr. Hanen as to what the cost of their packer truck was.

Mr. Hanen responded that Otter Tail County had paid \$100,000 for their packer truck.

Commissioner Stearns commented that Wadena County had limited Staff and that the least expensive way to go was with a “pup” trailer.

Mr. Gibson pointed out that if the County purchased the bins there would be nine more recycling bins in the County so then the Community could be properly serviced.

Motion by Stearns, second Waldahl, to authorize the purchase of 1 - hook truck "pup" trailer for \$22,600; 4 - four-compartment 22' Recycle Bins for \$24,800; 5 - cardboard bins for \$27,000, for a total expense of \$74,400, plus sales tax if applicable, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gibson informed the Board that Chairman Schermerhorn had received a letter from the Otter Tail County Board of Commissioners regarding collaboration on the staffing of the Wadena County Solid Waste Director position, which was currently vacant. He stated that discussion had previously been held as to administrative duties that Mr. Hanen, Otter Tail County Solid Waste Director, could assist Wadena County with.

Chairman Schermerhorn read a proposed Resolution for Board consideration to contract with Otter Tail County for administrative services.

Mr. Hanen stated that the Otter Tail County Board had discussed this topic quite extensively and were excited about the regional concept; they looked at this collaboration as a stepping stone as well as to show how two counties could work together.

Chairman Schermerhorn also read a letter from the Otter Tail Commissioners regarding the proposed collaboration.

Mr. Hanen stated that the Otter Tail County Board had also discussed his representation of both counties when he attended state-wide meetings; he could represent both counties for now and report back to each Board. He pointed out that it was felt that the Perham Resource Recovery Project was a bigger and broader project; Commissioner Stearns and Mr. Gibson had expertise on that project and it would better serve Wadena County if those members continued to be involved.

Commissioner Stearns commented that Wadena County would still have Mr. Gibson attend the Perham Resource Recovery Meetings and any meetings on the collaboration of the 4-Counties that were interested in forming a Solid Waste District; however, the day-to-day operations would be turned over to Mr. Hanen; Mr. Gibson would work much like a County Administrator would in overseeing the discussion with other counties.

Mr. Hanen stated that he felt Staff were close in presenting their County Boards with a proposal for the collaboration in forming a Solid Waste District; this was why the Otter Tail County Board felt it would be important that Wadena County still use their own personnel in presenting this proposal.

Commissioner Stearns questioned what a possible start date would be for Wadena County to receive Mr. Hanen's services; possibly January 1, 2010 or as soon as possible.

Discussion was held that the next step, following the adoption of the Resolution by the Wadena County Board, would be for the Wadena County Attorney to develop a contract between the two counties.

Motion by Stearns, seconded by Bounds, to approve the following Resolution, previously adopted by the Otter Tail County Board, and authorize the Wadena County Consultant, Otter Tail County Solid Waste Director and the Wadena County Attorney to develop a Contract for Board consideration;

RESOLUTION
Relating to Contracted Administrative Services
For Solid Waste Management

WHEREAS, Otter Tail County, Wadena County and other counties within the region are currently evaluating the possibility of forming a Joint Powers Board and working collectively and cooperatively to plan for, administer, and implement solid waste management programs and services; and

WHEREAS, Otter Tail County and Wadena County both see that there are potential long term economics and administrative advantages to working together collectively and cooperatively to administer and implement solid waste programs and services; and

WHEREAS, Wadena County is currently in a period of transition and without the services of a County Solid Waste Administrator; and

WHEREAS, Wadena County has expressed the desire to contract with Otter Tail County to provide solid waste management administrative service during this transition period; and

WHEREAS, Otter Tail County has, in place, staff and programs that Otter Tail County can make available to assist Wadena County during this transition period; and

WHEREAS, Wadena County has an intact, comprehensive, and mature solid waste management system (including programs, services, and staff) which would allow such a transition to be implemented relatively easily; and

WHEREAS Otter Tail County would be in a position to provide administrative services and work with the existing staff (including operational staff and clerical staff) to continue to enhance the programs and services already developed by Wadena County;

BE IT NOW THEREFORE RESOLVED, that Otter Tail County and Wadena County wish to contract to allow Otter Tail County to provide administrative services for solid waste management to Wadena County,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that administrative services shall be intended to include program oversight, staff oversight and facility oversight.

BE IT ALSO FURTHER RESOLVED, that, as this transition progresses, Wadena County may wish to contract for additional services from Otter Tail County, including, possibly, Household Hazardous Waste Services, Recycling Services, and Educational Services.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that both Otter Tail County and Wadena County recognize that this is a new venture for both counties and that a venture such as this where counties begin to work together more collectively and cooperatively maybe a direction where county government is headed into the future and that the success of this venture relies on an open line of communications between all parties involved.

Everett P. Erickson, Chairman
Otter Tail County Board of Commissioners

David Schermerhorn, Chairman
Wadena County Board of Commissioners

Larry Krohn, Coordinator
Otter Tail County

Charleen West, Auditor/Treasurer
Wadena County

09/01/2009
Date:

9/17/09
Date:

Motion carried.

Mr. Gibson informed the Board that the Prairie Lakes Municipal Solid Waste Master Plan was at the stage where the Board needed to make a firm commitment to participate; he requested Mr. Hanen provide further information.

Mr. Hanen stated that everyone was aware that a Master Plan had been discussed for some time pointing out that they were aware that Stearns County was pulling out of the Perham Project as well as the County's concerns in the difference in administrative concepts of the operation. He stated that the basic concept that was discussed in relation to the Master Plan was that the Resource Recovery Facility would become the hub of the group and then the spokes would go out to development a plan for the participants to work on things like education of recycling, HHW, and other Transfer Station activities. Mr. Hanen continued by stating that it was discussed that the core group would continue to be Wadena, Otter Tail and Todd Counties, as well as Becker County who was also interest and had become a major player. He stated that the core group did not have 55,000 tons of garbage to deliver to the facility on a yearly basis so they realized they needed to find a customer; they did not feel they needed a fifth partner as in the future the four counties may produce 65,000 tons of garbage but they would only have a 55,000 ton facility. Mr. Hanen pointed out that discussion was held as to the need to solve the four partner Counties waste management needs today and 20 years from today. He stated that this was one big change from where the group had started to what was being proposed at this time.

Mr. Hanen added that another change was to look at the way things would be funded, such as the expansion of the Resource Recovery Facility and the addition of a MIRF. He stated that the group needed to go forward as 2010 was a Legislative Bonding Year; 2.8 million had already

been awarded but the State of Minnesota needed to see that the group was progressing, which had not been shown so far. Mr. Hanen commended Otter Tail County Commissioner Huebsch for doing the majority of the work on the Master Plan. He stated that the group needed to make a decision on forming a Joint Powers Board of the four County group so that in January 2010 when the Legislature convened they would have something to present. Mr. Hanen pointed out that phases were discussed; first phase would be to expand the Perham Resource Recovery Center and install a MIRF; second phase would be to work towards operating more uniformly than currently being done; third phase would be to conduct operations as a group.

Commissioner Stearns stated that the expansion of the Facility had been discussed for four years which was very heated at times. He pointed out that Wadena County was committed to a certain amount of ownership with 19% of the existing debt without any ownership of the facility. Commissioner Stearns added that it would behoove Wadena County to keep the Facility running so the County did not have to pay 19% of the debt as well as pay to have garbage taken someplace else.

Mr. Hanen informed the Board that MCIT, League of Minnesota Cities, Lakes Country Service Cooperative (safety contractor to the City of Perham) and OSHA would be requested to come into the facility to conduct a consultation inspection and inform them of everything that was good as well as needs to be addressed from policies all the way up to design of the facility.

Chairman Schermerhorn referred to the Kitchigami Regional Library revised Joint Power Agreement pointing out that this Agreement had been worked on for several years.

Ms. West stated that she had met with Kitchagami Regional Library Director Marion Ridge the previous week to review the changes in the Agreement, which was in the Board's agenda packets. She added that Ms. Ridge had pointed out that every county and city participant had approved the Agreement except Hubbard County and Wadena County.

Chairman Schermerhorn stated that it was his understanding that Hubbard County's concern was that citizen representatives would still be a part of the Library Board; they did not feel that a citizen representative should be allowed to spend the money. He pointed out that Wadena County did have a citizen representative; however, the County Board had to approve all spending that took place. Chairman Schermerhorn stated that he felt the changes were for the better.

Commissioner Stearns clarified that the Library Joint Powers Board did not have authority to increase the amount of money paid to them as State Statute had a minimum Maintenance of Effort; Wadena County was presently over that limit.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Stearns, to approve the adoption of the revised Kitchigami Regional Joint Powers Agreement, effective January 1, 2010, as presented, motion carried.

Paul Sailer, Social Services Director, Joel Uring, Highway Engineer, Mike Carr, Sheriff, Karen Nelson, Public Health Director, and Char West, Auditor/Treasurer came before the Board to

present them with the final draft of the Voluntary Early Retirement/Resignation Incentive Program Guidelines.

Mr. Sailer informed the Board that the Management Team Sub-Committee was present to give a final report and recommendation on the Early Retirement/Resignation Incentive Program. He pointed out that the most recent change was that employees did not literally have to retire; they could resign and participate in the program. Mr. Sailer provided background on the development of the Plan pointing out that the Committee had reviewed six different plans from neighboring counties; the Committee had had conference calls with the Crow Wing County Human Resource Director and had worked on the Plan with a labor attorney from Frank Madden & Associates, who handled the Crow Wing County Early Retirement Plan. He pointed out that the Sub-Committee had also met with the Personnel Committee; Commissioners Schermerhorn and Waldahl to review the final draft of the Plan. Mr. Sailer distributed two documents; the Program Guidelines and the Participation Agreement and Release form. He pointed out that Otter Tail County currently had 19 vacancies which they were not filling as they had been frozen; Crow Wing County dealt with the situation by using lay-offs and an Early Incentive Program; Wadena County employees were to be commended for their acceptance of a total freeze on salaries and health plan increases for 2009.

Mr. Sailer reviewed the Early Retirement/Resignation Incentive Plan pointing out that this was a new program and a one-time event; due to the current economic conditions this situation was different. He reviewed the Guidelines and Participation Agreement with the Board pointing out that employees considering participation in this Plan need to talk with their financial consultant, PERA consultant, and an Attorney.

Rin Porter, Verndale Sun, questioned why Department Heads were excluded from participation.

Mr. Sailer responded that Department Heads were involved in the Sub-Committee and did not want any conflict of interest.

Commissioner Stearns stated that the theory behind this Plan was that the people retiring would have a higher salary than the replacements coming in. He also indicated concern over the amount of cash that the County could possibly have to have available on January 1, 2010; he felt there would be a cash problem, depending on the recoup time for the money paid out.

Mr. Sailer responded that some saving would occur upon the first pay check of the person replacing a vacancy; the 2010 Budget did reflect the full salary of the higher paid employees. He added that some Departments, such as Social Services, would receive one-half of the Incentive payment back in about three months from Federal or State reimbursement.

Commissioner Stearns stated that he felt the replacements would have to be hired at Step 1 in order to make this work.

Mr. Sailer responded that in some instances there may be a reduction of hours in a position; the objective was to reach a 25% savings.

Commissioner Waldahl commented that he agreed with Commissioner Stearns, adding that if a 20-year employee resigned and a Step 1 employee was hired, how effective would this person be to the Department.

Mr. Sailer responded that if a person participated in the Plan and the replacements hours were reduced from a 40-hour work schedule, then possibly it could be justified at hiring someone at a higher Step as the position had been filled at reduced hours which would off-set the cost.

Commissioner Waldahl stated that the Board needed some guarantee that the salary would stay down and not, six months later, state that their hours have to be increased.

Mr. Sailer stated that if this Plan was approved a 25% savings had to be obtained in order to make this work; the Department Heads had discussed this and considered the possibilities.

Commissioner Stearns questioned if there could be a clause added to provide the County with the option to opt out.

Mr. Sailer responded that it was his understanding that there was not an option for the County to opt out.

Mr. Urling pointed out that the County was approaching the critical time of the year; the cost savings would be worth the stress of trying to find replacements; we have put a lot of time and effort into this or we wouldn't be here.

Motion by Bounds, seconded by Miller, to adopt and implement the Wadena County Early Retirement/Resignation Plan as of September 18th, 2009;

Commissioner Waldahl stated his concern over the rehiring at Step 1 versus Step 5; before any Department rehired it would have to come back before the Board.

Sheriff Carr commented that he felt the Board made that final decision anyway.

Commissioners Miller, Bounds, Waldahl and Schermerhorn voting aye; Commissioner Stearns nay, motion carried.

The Board recessed at 11:04 a.m.

The Board reconvened at 11:08 a.m.

Karen Nelson, Public Health Director, came to the Board requesting approval to advertise for a replacement Public Health Nurse.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Bounds, to authorize the Public Health Director to advertise for a replacement Public Health Nurse 1.0 FTE or a combination of a 0.5 FTE Public Health Nurse and a .05 FTE Community Health Specialist, effective 10-5-09, motion carried.

Ms. Nelson informed the Board that the September 25, 2009 Executive Board of Health Meeting site had been changed to the Todd County Main Street Building, County Board Room.

Deana Skov, Zoning/Parks Director, requested Board approval of an ISTS Grant Application to install a low-income septic system; located in Section 8 of Orton Township; estimated cost of \$7,225 for the septic system.

Motion by Stearns, seconded by Miller, to approve the ISTS Grant Application for the installation of a low-income septic system located in Section 8 of Orton Township; estimated cost of \$7,225.00, as recommended by the Zoning/Parks Director, motion carried.

Joel Uring, Highway Engineer, informed the Board that Highway employee Keith Milbradt had previously requested and used his allotted 12 weeks of Family Medical Leave (FMLA). He stated that Mr. Milbradt had provided him with a Doctors memo and personal request for an additional four weeks of unpaid leave time. Mr. Uring recommended an unpaid leave of absence for Mr. Milbradt for up to 60 calendar days or November 12, 2009.

Motion by Stearns, seconded by Waldahl, to approve an unpaid Leave of Absence for Keith Milbradt, Highway Department, retroactive to September 14, 2009, for up to 60 calendar days or November 12, 2009, as recommended by the Highway Engineer, motion carried.

Mr. Uring requested Board approval to advertise for bids for a five-year road maintenance contract for Aldrich and Wing River Townships which would include snow plowing, summer blading, and roadside mowing of approximately 34 miles of low-volume County-Aid gravel roads.

Commissioner Stearns questioned whether the approval of the contract would save the County money.

Mr. Uring responded that it would.

Motion by Stearns, seconded by Waldahl, to approve the advertisement for bids for a five-year road maintenance contract for snow plowing, summer blading and roadside mowing of approximately 34 miles of low-volume County Aid gravel roads in Aldrich and Wing River Townships;

Commissioner Miller questioned Mr. Uring whether the majority of the roads were in Aldrich Township; with the return of the two pieces of road equipment to the Verndale Facility, he wondered where these vehicles would be utilized.

Mr. Ullring responded they had reestablished three motor grader routes. He reviewed a map indicating the different routes and which ones were proposed to be contracted out.

Commissioner Bounds questioned where the money savings would be accomplished.

Mr. Ullring responded that one Highway position was being cut making it necessary to contract out the road maintenance otherwise a motion was needed to replace the employee who resigned last spring.

Commissioner Stearns clarified with Mr. Ullring that in advertising for bids the Board had the right to reject any and all bids if it was found that it did not save money.

Commissioner Miller stated that he did not understand why the motor grader that was re-established in Verndale was not taking care of those roads in that immediate area north of Verndale; it would save about 15 miles of deadheading.

Mr. Ullring responded that the main reason was that the roads in Aldrich Township had a high concentration of low volume roads, which was why that area was selected; other areas were more spread out and were higher volume roads.

Commissioners Stearns, Waldahl and Schermerhorn voting aye; Commissioners Miller and Bounds voting nay, motion carried.

Mr. Ullring requested Board authorization to advertise for maintenance worker positions to create a Maintenance Worker Eligibility List in light of the passing of the Early Retirement Program; he pointed out that he had to have applications available once he found out how many Highway Maintenance employees would take advantage of the Program; he did not feel he could afford to lose a few weeks.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Bounds, to authorize the Highway Engineer to advertise to create a Highway Maintenance Worker Eligibility List, motion carried.

Mr. Ullring informed the Board that he had received a request from the Verndale Fire Department to approve a new entrance on CSAH 7 east of CORD 18 for access to an irrigation well for fire safety. He stated that the person who came to him advised him that he had talked with the Commissioners and the application fee was waived because it was for a public service, which Mr. Ullring agreed with. Mr. Ullring pointed out that this entrance would require a culvert and could be paid for out of State Aid Maintenance dollars; however, someone had to build that entrance and Mr. Ullring requested that the Fire Department come up with a recommendation or find someone to volunteer.

Commissioner Miller stated that he had discussed dry wells with WestMin RC&D but had not questioned whether financial assistance could be obtained; he requested this information from Mr. Ullring.

Mr. Ullring responded he did not know the answer to his question. He pointed out that in St. Louis County, dry hydrants were very common but they were placed where there was already an access or rebuilding a roadway and the cost was easily absorbed; in this case, there was a cost to the County or organization. He added that the normal procedure would be for the County to provide the culvert but the person or landowner requesting the new entrance would build the entrance.

Commissioner Miller commented the benefit was to the DNR or anyone having potential use for a water source and not for personal gain, but for public service and did not feel the Fire Department should be liable by itself to accomplish this.

Mr. Ullring pointed out that the landowner did benefit due to the new access to their center pivot.

Board consensus was to follow the current procedures relating to the installation of new County Road entrances.

Mr. Ullring reminded the Board that in June 2009 Aggregate Crushing Bids had been received and awarded to Northland Aggregate. He stated that the contractor had been non-responsive in communicating with him and he had learned late August that they were not able to fulfill the contract. Mr. Ullring added that he had settled with their bonding company for approximately \$790.00 to cover the administrative and advertising costs.

Mr. Gibson informed the Board that a new water line had to be dug in at the Transfer Station and that Mr. Ullring had agreed to use the Highway Department equipment and one of their personnel to do the digging; Mr. Ullring had questioned whether the Highway Department could bill the Solid Waste Department for this service. He pointed out that it could possibly be less expensive to hire from the outside than what it would cost the Highway Department to do the work.

Commissioner Bounds stated that he felt it would be cheaper to hire from the outside.

Mr. Gibson requested clarified from the Board that it was permissible for him to obtain quotes for the installation of a new water line at the Transfer Station.

The Board was in agreement of Mr. Gibson obtaining quotes for the new water line installation.

Commissioner Miller informed the Board that the debris at the Fairgrounds had been cleaned up and looked good. He added that he would like to thank Mr. Ullring, Vern Kemper and the Highway staff for removing the 40 loads of manure, 5 loads of tires and 4 loads of brush.

Mr. Gibson stated that he felt the Board should consider whether this was a cost the County should pay or the Fair Board should pay.

Commissioner Waldahl stated he felt this should be addressed at the Fair Board Meeting.

Commissioner Miller stated that he had made arrangements with Mr. Kemper to compute the cost of the cleanup so in the future if the facilities were used the cost of cleanup would be known and a deposit could be made in that amount.

Mr. Gibson suggested the importance of informing the Department Head of what was going on.

Mike Carr, Sheriff, came before the Board to request approval for a Wadena County Sheriff's Office employee (Employee #253) to reduce his hours of employment to 60% time for medical purposes; the remaining 40% time would be worked by a permanent part-time employee until this employee returned to full active duty. He pointed out that with this request of 60% time, the employee's benefits would be pro-rated and he would inform the Board when the employee was able to return to full-time employment.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Bounds, to approve the reduction in work hours from 100% to 60% for Wadena County Sheriff's Office employee #253 for medical purposes, with all benefits pro-rated, motion carried.

Motion by Stearns, seconded by Bounds, to approve payment of the Board of Commissioner bills in the amount of \$60,708.02, motion carried.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Stearns, to approve payment of the invoice received from Graham Refrigeration for the replacement of the Sheriff's Department Air Conditioner in the amount of \$6,123.26 to be paid from Building Fund Department #114, motion carried.

Motion by Bounds, seconded by Stearns, to approve payment of the invoice from the Wadena County Ag Society for replacement of Wadena County Fair Ground doors in the amount of \$7,744.10 from their 2009 Allocation, motion carried.

Motion by Miller, seconded by Stearns, to adjourn the Board of Commissioners Meeting at 11:50 a.m., motion carried.

Charleen West, Auditor/Treasurer

David Schermerhorn, Chairman