

WADENA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ADJOURNED MEETING
OCTOBER 21, 2010/9:00 A.M.

The Wadena County Board of Commissioners Meeting was held on Thursday, October 21, 2010, 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 William Stearns and the pledge of allegiance to the flag was said.

Present: Commissioners Dave Schermerhorn, Rodney Bounds, Ralph Miller, Lane Waldahl, and Auditor/Treasurer Char West.

Agenda: Motion by Miller, seconded by Bounds, to approve the day's Agenda as amended to include 10:45 a.m.) Kyra Ladd, County Attorney - Personnel, k.) Health Insurance Committee Recommendation and to table until the November 4th meeting - h.) Department Head/Supervisor Disaster Related Compensatory Time, motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Miller, seconded by Schermerhorn, to approve Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes of October 5, 2010 as presented, motion carried.

Chairman Stearns closed the Regular Board of Commissioners Meeting at 9:04 a.m. for the purpose of evaluating the performance of an individual subject to its authority in the Highway Department.

Chairman Stearns reopened the Regular Board of Commissioners Meeting at 9:23 a.m. with the following action relating to the Closed Board Meeting.

Motion by Miller, seconded by Waldahl, to approve acceptance of the resignation of Betty White, Highway Department Accountant, and to pay the accumulated vacation and sick time per Union Contract, holiday pay, suspension Days and the County will pay the County share of the November 2010 health insurance premium, motion carried unanimously.

Fairground Project Update: Ryan Odden, Highway Engineer, informed the Board that the Ag Society Horse Barn building pad had been completed as well as the dirt work for the new Horse Arena; the 4-H Building had also been enclosed by Sentenced to Serve (STS).

Chairman Stearns informed the Board that the Sentence to Serve would be working on repairing the Cattle Barn in November. He commented that a previous Board motion had approved the purchase of galvanized steel for the roof; he questioned whether the galvanized steel should be used on the roof or would the Board prefer white steel on the roof.

Commissioner Bounds pointed out that the galvanized steel had been purchased and cut for that roof and should be used for that purpose.

Grant Opportunity for Old Wadena: Mary Harrison came before the Board to inform them that Forecast Public Arts Grants were available through the 5 Wings Art Council. Also present was Deana Skov, Zoning/Parks Director.

Ms. Harrison pointed out that she was only representing herself, not any organization, and explained that the project grant could be up to \$7,000 and was for any kind of art, permanent or temporary, which took place in a public location where there was no admission charge.

Ms. Harrison presented the Board with a model of her proposed project for Old Wadena which was a 2 foot by 3 foot diorama with sound. She added that she had also presented this to the Old Wadena Society who had provided her with a letter of support for the project.

The Board questioned whether it would be housed or would it be a traveling diorama that could be taken to the schools.

Ms. Harrison replied that it would be at the Park in the summer and made light enough for it to go in and out with the ox cart. She added that in the winter it could be housed in the Library, the Courthouse, taken to schools, etc., as it would be County property. She advised the deadline for the grant application was November 15th and requested Board permission to proceed with the Project should she receive the Grant.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded Schermerhorn, to authorize Mary Harrison to proceed in applying for a Forecast Public Art Grant through the 5 Wings Arts Council for the development of a mobile diorama to be displayed at the Wadena County Old Wadena Park and various locations throughout the County; the Zoning/Parks Director will assist in overseeing the Project, motion carried.

GIS Department: Gina Dahms, GIS Director, informed the Board that she had received a request from a City of Wadena voluntary consulting group for the aerial warehouse of photographs that had been taken following the tornado. She explained that Pictometry Corporation had flown the County in 2009 and part of that contract was if there was a natural disaster in the County, they would fly that area for free, which they did. Ms. Dahms commented that a GIS Advisory Committee Meeting was held to discuss whether or not they should charge for the photos and the Committees recommendation to the Board was that the photos be provided at no charge.

Motion by Schermerhorn, seconded by Waldahl, to authorize the GIS Director to provide the City of Wadena consulting group with the aerial photographs of the Tornado affected area at no charge, motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Dahms informed the Board that the City and the County exchanged a lot of GIS information and the County charged for maps provided to them as well as other cities and County Departments. She commented that the Wadena City Planner had requested the Board reconsider not charging the City for GIS maps.

Board consensus was to continue to charge everyone and suggested the City do likewise.

The Board recessed at 9:55 a.m.

The Board reconvened at 10:16 a.m.

Payment of Invoices on Auditor Checks: Motion by Miller, seconded by Waldahl, to approve payment of the following invoices which had been paid on Auditor checks in order to avoid penalty for late payment; Ck# 29920 – BP -\$949.14; Ck# 29860 -Wadena Ready Mix -\$902.12; Ck# 29861 - Washington State Patrol - \$17.00; Ck# 29912 - West Payment Center - \$199.00; Ck #29683 – Marco - \$237.48; Ck #29797 – Marco - \$237.48; Ck #29678 – BP -\$1,180.34 for a total of \$3,722.56, motion carried.

Ms. West requested Board authorization to pay invoices received from Marco for copier lease, Comdata for gas and BP for gas, on Auditor's check upon receipt in order to avoid late fees.

Motion by Schermerhorn, seconded Bounds, to authorize the Auditor/Treasurer to pay invoices upon receipt from Marco for copier lease, Comdata for gas and BP for gas for the purpose of avoiding late fees, motion carried.

Wadena Soil and Water Conservation 2011 Budget Information: The Board reviewed the 2011 budget information received from the Wadena Soil and Water Conservation District.

County Attorney: Kyra Ladd, County Attorney, came before the Board to inform them that she was now in a position to extend an offer of employment to a candidate for the vacant Assistant County Attorney position, who had tentatively agreed on salary, start date, etc., based on approval of the Board. She pointed out that the former Assistant County Attorney left at a Grade 56, Step 3, \$25.07 and she was proposing Grade 56, Step 2, \$24.94 per hr. for candidate Erin Stephens with a start date of November 8, 2010. Ms. Ladd reviewed Ms. Stephens work experience with the Board.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Miller, to approve the appointment of Erin Stephens to the Assistant County Attorney position; Grade 56, Step 2, \$24.94 per hour, start date of November 8, 2010, motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Stearns informed Ms. Ladd that at the time of the tornado, the Fairgrounds lease with the Baseball Association had expired April, 2010. He added that the question of whether the lights and structures owned by the Baseball Association, but not under a current lease, became the property of the County that owned the land or did it revert to the Ag Society that leased the land from the County.

Ms. Ladd responded that she would review the lease agreement.

Todd-Wadena Community Correction Quarterly Report: Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Schermerhorn, to accept the Community Corrections Quarterly Financial Report, motion carried.

Local Option Disaster Property Tax Abatements: Motion by Schermerhorn, seconded by Bounds, to approve Local Option Disaster Property Tax Abatements, approved by the State Executive Council, for eligible parcels #22.006.1030 and #22.410.0460, motion carried.

Public Health 2nd Half 2010 Allocation: Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Schermerhorn, to approve the payment of \$99,892.50 to the Wadena County Public Health Department for their second half 2010 County Levy allocation, motion carried.

FEMA/HSEM update: Ms. West informed the Board that Wadena County had 11 separate FEMA grant applications as a result of the June 17, 2010 Tornado Disaster and all project worksheets had been completed and signed off on. She distributed a handout reflecting a total cost of each application as well as the \$2,614,911 County total. Ms. West pointed out that the Solid Waste Debris Site dollar amount of \$969,738.80 could possibly total over 2 million dollars but FEMA recommended submitting a project worksheet for less than 1 million, as it would then be expedited for payment, with future amendments to the worksheet. She added that potential FEMA reimbursement would be 75% of the total cost less insurance proceeds or any other revenues received.

Chairman Stearns informed the Board that the Legislature met in special session and had approved the 15% State payment of the disaster expenses as well as the remaining 10% expense with the idea that the County could be advanced these funds.

Ms. West advised the Board that she anticipated reimbursement through Homeland Security to be timely which would alleviate the need for County short term financing.

MCIT Voting Delegate & Alternate: The Board reviewed correspondence from Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust (MCIT), listing David Schermerhorn as Delegate and Ralph Miller as Alternate. The Board need not respond since this is correct information.

Health Insurance 2011 Premium Rates: Ms. West distributed and reviewed the County Health Insurance Committee recommendations relating to the 2010 Employee Health Insurance Benefit renewal; the following motions were recommended by the Committee.

Motion by Schermerhorn, seconded by Waldahl, to change the Long Term Disability employee benefit coverage to Reliance Standards through A.T. Group from Assurant through Ochs Agency, starting 1/1/11, due to better coverage and reduced premiums, motion carried.

Health Insurance Committee Member Chairman Stearns explained the next Committee recommendation related to the Health Care Reform Act; the current \$200 deductible did not have preventative care, unlike the \$500 deductible and \$2,500 deductible Health Reimbursement Savings with preventative care; the Committee recommended continuing past practice and grandfather in the current \$200. He added that Union contracts required that employee Cafeteria dollar reimbursement be based on the \$200 deductible plan premium; if changed from the \$200 deductible plan with no preventative care to the \$200 with preventative care, the increase would be fairly large which had not been negotiated or budgeted for. Chairman Stearns added that

Union representatives also agreed that the increase had not been negotiated or budgeted and to leave as is.

Motion by Bounds, seconded by Schermerhorn, to continue “past practice” and Grandfather in the \$200 deductible health insurance plan reflecting no change to the current stated plan; action required under the provisions of the Health Care Reform Act, motion carried.

Ms. West read the Committee recommendation to distribute a survey to all employees with County health insurance coverage, during the week of October 25th, requesting responses as to interest in 2012 changes to the \$200 deductible plan, interest in moving to the \$200 deductible plan and which plan they anticipated enrolling in for 2011.

Board discussion was held as to whether there was a need for this employee survey.

Ms. West explained that similar employee surveys had previously been approved by the Board. She added that Committee discussion was held regarding employee interest in adding preventative care benefit improvements to the \$200 deductible plan in the future. Ms. West pointed out that there was public discussion that the Health Care Reform Act may be eliminated in 2011.

Further Board discussion was held regarding the current negotiation of a two year employee contract that did not reflect any changes to employee health insurance plans. The Health Insurance Committee recommendation died for lack of a motion.

Ms. West reviewed ancillary employee benefit insurance renewal information and advised the Board that a motion was needed to accept these renewals.

Motion by Schermerhorn, seconded by Bounds, to approve A.T. Group Insurance premiums as follows: Life Insurance renewal – no increase (Fort Dearborn Life), Short Term Disability renewal – no increase (Trustmark Voluntary Benefits Solutions, Inc.), Dental Insurance – 4.5% increase (Delta Dental), motion carried.

Motion by Schermerhorn, seconded by Waldahl, to accept the Long Term Care renewal through Ochs Agency, Inc., no increase (‘CAN Long Term Care), motion carried

Motion by Bounds, seconded by Schermerhorn, to approve the 2011 health insurance premiums renewals through NJPA and HealthPartners as follows:

| | <u>\$200 CMM Plan</u> | <u>\$500 CMM/HRA Plan</u> | <u>\$2500 CMM/HRR Plan</u> |
|----------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Single | \$ 610.00 | \$ 594.00 | \$ 514.00 |
| Employee + One | \$ 977.00 | \$ 949.00 | \$ 821.00 |
| Family | \$1,493.00 | \$1,453.00 | \$1,257.00 |

Motion carried.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Schermerhorn, to approve the following employee Cafeteria Dollars for 2011; based on the \$200 CMM Plan; Single - \$614.00, Employee + One - \$878.00 and Family - \$961.00, motion carried unanimously

Motion by Bounds, seconded by Schermerhorn, to approve payment of the Board of Commissioner bills in the amount of \$176,835.00, motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Miller, seconded by Schermerhorn, to approve payment to the Old Wadena Society for the second half 2010 allocation in the amount of \$1,000, motion carried.

Chairman Stearns acknowledged Joel Walsvik's attendance and questioned whether he had something to bring before the Board.

Mr. Walsvik requested a meeting with the five Commissioners in a closed session at the Board's convenience.

Chairman Stearns advised Mr. Walsvik that he would need to meet with the Auditor/Treasurer and County Attorney to outline what the closed meeting would be for; they would then determine if that would fit the statutes as to why there could be a closed meeting.

Board direction was for Ms. West to contact the County Attorney as to her availability to meet with Mr. Walsvik and herself and then inform Mr. Walsvik of the time and date through written correspondence.

Chairman Stearns reported he had received a letter from Gary Sobiech regarding the denial of an Abatement on his property that he would like to have re-reviewed. Chairman Stearns requested Ms. West present the letter to the County Assessor for the next Board Meeting agenda.

Commission Reports:

Commissioner Schermerhorn: None

Commissioner Millers: Old Wadena Society Meeting, Wadena County Fair Board Meeting.

Commissioner Stearns: South Country Health Alliance (SCHA) Meeting and Solid Waste Committee Meeting.

Commissioner Bounds: Wadena County Fair Board Meeting, Otter Tail-Wadena Community Action Council Meeting.

Commissioner Waldahl: West Central Juvenile Center Meeting, Bell Hill Recovery Center Meeting, 2.0 Wadena Planning Meeting.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Bounds, to adjourn the Board of Commissioners Meeting at 11:20 a.m., motion carried.

Charleen West, Auditor/Treasurer

William Stearns, Chairman