

WADENA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
DECEMBER 9, 2010 2:30 P.M.

The Wadena County Board of Commissioners Meeting was held on Thursday, December 9, 2010, at the Wadena County Courthouse in the Commissioners Room at 415 Jefferson St. S., Wadena Minnesota. The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m. by Chairman William Stearns and the pledge of allegiance to the flag was said.

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

Agenda: Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Schermerhorn, to amend the day's Agenda to remove h.) Request for Board Approval of Invoices Paid on Auditor's Checks, motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Miller seconded by Bounds, to approve the Board Meeting Minutes of November 4, 2010, and November 18, 2010, motion carried.

Closed Meeting 2011 Negotiations: Chairman Stearns closed the Board of Commissioners Meeting at 2:35 p.m. for the purpose of strategizing for 2011 negotiations. Present for the Closed Meeting: Chairman Stearns, Commissioners Waldahl, Schermerhorn, Bounds and Miller, HR Consultant Mike Gibson and Auditor/Treasurer Char West.

Chairman Stearns re-opened the Board of Commissioners Meeting at 2:57 p.m.

Call for Bids for 2011 Official Newspaper: Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Miller, to call for bids for the 2011 Official Newspaper, to be opened at 10:00 a.m. on January 3, 2011, and awarded at 10:15 a.m. on January 4, 2011, motion carried.

Schedule of Future Board Meetings: The following dates were set for future Board Meetings: January 4, 2011, January 20, 2011, February 1, 2011, February 17, 2011, March 1, 2011 and March 17, 2011.

Secretary of State Joint Powers Agreement: Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Bounds, to approve the Joint Powers Agreement with the MN Secretary of State which provided County reimbursement relating to the 2010 Governor's Election Recount, motion carried.

4-H Building Repair: The Board discussed the repair at the 4-H Building and specifically putting new steel on the roof. The Board would discuss the improvements with the Highway Engineer.

Todd-Wadena Community Corrections Allocation: Motion by Schermerhorn, seconded by Waldahl, to approve payment to Todd-Wadena Community Corrections for their second half 2010 allocation in the amount of \$75,614.50, motion carried.

Region 5 Development Commission Report: Cheryl Hills, Region 5 Development Commission Director, came to the Board to update them on the recent activities at Region 5. She reported that a favorable 2010 Audit report had been received, which she reviewed with the Board; thanked Commissioner Schermerhorn for serving on the Region 5 Development Commission, development of a trail through Camp Ripley, which affected Morrison, Cass County and Crow Wing Counties, County Administrator Meetings, attended by Commissioner Schermerhorn and Ms. West, discussion was held regarding coordination of events and services, purchasing in order to maximize efficiency in local governments and discussions were beginning regarding Human Resources coordination. Ms. Hills distributed a handout outlining services of a Human Resource person who could be shared by counties and well as the Annual Region 5 Development Commission Report. She reported that the HUD Sustainable Communities Planning Grant had been awarded to Region 5, the purpose was to work on a Regional Plan to determine how the Region's decisions impact each other; there was legislation through the Federal level that would appropriate funds for strategies put forth in a Regional Plan which would include Region 5. Ms. Hills requested participation from Wadena County to provide names of individuals, County staff, community citizens, Veterans, Homemakers, etc., that would benefit the whole area; the University of Minnesota was also a partner in the project.

Solid Waste Department: Mike Hanan, Solid Waste Director, came before the Board to request approval of a Resolution modifying the market price for solid waste loads being hauled from the Wadena County Transfer Station to the Perham Incinerator or Dakota Landfill, which would be based on the new tipping fee that would take affect January 1, 2011. He pointed out that the new market price of \$66.28 per ton was based on the combination of the tipping fee and transportation costs to both locations.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Schermerhorn, to approve the following Resolution;

**Wadena County Resolution
Market Price for the Solid Waste Management Tax**

WHEREAS, the solid waste management tax requires political subdivisions to identify by resolution a market price if the political subdivision: Subsidizes the cost of service at a facility.

WHEREAS, the political subdivision will be liable for the solid waste management tax based only on the market price amount identified through this resolution.

WHEREAS, the market price is identified in state statutes as the "lowest price available in the area."

WHEREAS, Wadena County has performed research to identify the lowest price available in the area;

THEREFORE, the County of Wadena declares a market price of \$66.28 per ton, based on a contracted combined tipping fee and transportation amount of \$1,226.10 per load at the Dakota Landfill and an average of 18.5 tons per load.

Approved by the Wadena Board of Commissioners on this 9th day of December, 2010.

Charleen West, Auditor/Treasurer

William Stearns, Chairman

Highway Department: Ryan Odden, Highway Engineer, presented the Board with an Agenda, which he reviewed. Mr. Odden informed the Board that the Highway Accountant interviews had been completed and he had provided a letter of offer to Cara Bengston, who accepted the position of Highway Accountant, Grade 54, Step 3, with a start date of January 3, 2011.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Schermerhorn, to approve the appointment of Cara Bengston to the Highway Accountant position at Grade 54, Step 3, at \$18.84 per hour with a start date of January 3, 2011, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Odden requested approval by the Board for the purchase of a steamer with a high pressure jet system to unthaw culverts; it also could be used to pressure wash buildings. He informed the Board that he only had one quote due to the fact that it was a custom piece of equipment; the quote was from Diamond Industrial Cleaning Equipment in the amount of \$13,791.35, to be paid for from FEMA reimbursement funds.

Motion by Waldahl, second by Schermerhorn, to approve the purchase of a High Pressure Jet System Steamer from Diamond Industrial Cleaning Equipment at a price of \$13,791.35, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Odden requested Board approval to purchase an 8' 2" Boss Steel V-plow for the Maintenance Supervisor's pickup; the new plow would allow for quick removal of random snow drifts with the goal to have safer road conditions for the traveling public. The following quotes were received:

Meyer Midwest	\$6,145.31
Schultz Garage & Bus Company	\$5,478.41

Mr. Odden recommended the low quote from Schultz Garage & Bus Company in the amount of \$5,478.41, installed.

Motion by Bounds, seconded by Waldahl, to purchase an 8' 2" Boss Steel V-plow for the Maintenance Supervisor's pickup from Schultz Garage & Bus Company in the amount of \$5,478.41, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Odden requested approval by the Board for the purchase of five chainsaws stating that two of the current chainsaws were non-fixable and the other three were due for replacement.

Three quotes were received as follows:

Coast True Value, Staples	\$3,206.25
Marlins Small Engine Repair, Wadena	\$3,126.04
Evergreen Equipment, Wadena	\$3,098.95

Mr. Odden recommended the low quote from Evergreen Equipment, Wadena in the amount of \$3,098.95.

Commissioner Miller recommended accepting the quote from Marlins Small Engine Repair due to the business being located within Wadena County.

Motion by Miller, seconded by Bounds, to approve the purchase of five chainsaws from Marlins Small Engine Repair at a total cost of \$3,126.04,

Commissioner Bounds commented that the second quote was also from a Wadena County Taxpayer.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Odden requested approval for replacing their 8' T-12 bulbs with electronic ballasts, 4' T-8 bulbs, electronic ballasts with motion detector on/off switches. He pointed out that the estimated reduction in power usage would be 50% and a 50% rebate offer. Two quotes were as followed:

Daily Electric, LLC	\$ 9,350.00
Erickson Electric	\$11,188.64

Mr. Odden recommended the low quote from Daily Electric in the amount of \$9,350.00.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Miller, to approve the purchase of 4' T-8 bulbs, electronic ballasts with motion detector on/off switches from Daily Electric, LLC, in the amount of \$9,350.00, motion carried unanimously.

The Board updated Mr. Odden on their previous discussion regarding the replacement of the 4-H Building steel roof.

Mr. Odden would obtain material quotes for the December 23rd Board Meeting.

Mr. Odden requested Board authorization to extend the deadline to use vacation time for Terry Milbradt, Highway Department Maintenance, due to the recent snow events that did not allow him to take the time off.

Motion by Miller, seconded by Schermerhorn, to authorization an extension to use vacation time for Terry Milbradt, Highway Department Maintenance, motion carried.

Recorder Office: Sole Henriksen, County Recorder, came before the Board to request approval to purchase software from Tri-Min Software Company. She pointed out that the program would

enhance imaging and create an index for all the images currently stored in their program; this would be free to all taxpayers in Wadena County. Ms. Henriksen added that the cost of the three software programs was \$15,900.00, which included instruction, training and the maintenance of the software; this purchase had been recommended by the Compliance Committee and would be paid for with Compliance Funds.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Schermerhorn, to approve the purchase of Land Record Input Module, Tract Port Module and Land Notification Software from Tri-Min, Inc. at a cost of \$15,900.00, plus sales tax, to be paid from the Recorder's Compliance Fund, motion carried.

Public Health Department: Karen Nelson, Public Health Director, came to the Board for approval to renew the 2011 Public Health contracts effective January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011.

Motion by Schermerhorn, second by Bounds, to approve the following public health contracts effective January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011:

1. Fee to Bell Hill at \$46.48 hr plus mileage at the prevailing County rate.
2. Fee for On Call Nursing at 46.48/hr plus mileage at the prevailing County rate.
 - a) Freshwater
 - b) Wadena Deer Creek School
3. Fee for Early Childhood Screening for Verndale, Wadena, Menahga, Sebeka Schools: (Rate set by State Department of Education)
 - \$75.00 – child age 3
 - \$50.00 – child age 4
 - \$40.00 – child age 5
4. Medical Consultant \$125.00
5. Back-up Sanitarian services from Morrison and Douglas County Public Health at \$40.00/hr portal to portal plus mileage, meals, lab tests and materials.
6. Wadena County Sanitarian at \$113.23/inspection and \$24.81/hr not to exceed \$21,576; \$992 paid by Year 3 of FDA grant.
7. Stericycle, Infectious Waste, 32 gallon box \$59, waste management tax of \$0.004 per pound and fuel surcharge of \$5 per collection.
8. CHIC, NE Regional Immunization Registry to pay Wadena County Public Health for PH Immunization outreach for MA children based on the % MA children in Wadena County.
9. Senior Health Screening clinic rent at Family Center building with the City of Menahga at \$50/year.

Motion carried.

Motion by Miller, seconded by Schermerhorn, to approve payment of the Board of Commissioner bills in the amount of \$117,521.96, motion carried.

Commissioners Reports:

Commissioner Schermerhorn: none.

Commissioner Miller: none.

Commissioner Stearns: Highway Department Committee Meeting; Fairground Committee Meeting - met with representatives from the National Guard; AMC Meeting.

Commissioner Bounds: none.

Commissioner Waldahl: West Central Region Juvenile Center.

Motion by Schermerhorn, seconded by Waldahl, to approve the appointment of Aaron Hillukka to the vacant Deputy Sheriff position, Grade 54, Step 1, at \$17.15 per hour, start date of January 2, 2011, motion carried.

The Board recessed at 4:10 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 4:30 p.m. in the Auditorium.

Senator/Representative Discussion: Chairman Stearns introduced Senator Gretchen Hoffman and Representative Mark Murdock. He pointed out that the Board's purpose of their invitation was to provide them with an opportunity to meet the County Board and County Department Heads and discuss Wadena County's Legislative issues.

Also present: Wadena County Commissioners Waldahl, Schermerhorn, Bounds, Miller, Solid Waste Director Mike Hanan, Sheriff Mike Carr, Public Health Director Karen Nelson, Zoning/Parks Director Deana Skov, Human Services Director Paul Sailer, Veterans Service Officer Dave Anderson, County Recorder Sole Henriksen, MIS Director Kevin Stensrude, County Assessor Lee Brekke, Highway Engineer Ryan Odden and County Auditor/Treasurer Char West.

The County Commissioners and Department Heads provided information, recommendations and/or concerns relating to the following; proposed expansion of Wadena County Demolition Landfill Site, Forfeiture Laws, Administrative Citations, reduction of transport costs if first time Court appearance by ITV, Sentence To Service funding, increase in cost of Health Care and Human Services partially due to recipients that come to Minnesota to obtain medical assistance, appreciate funding for children's fluoride, state funding of health care services to inmates, Complete Streets program could sky rocket cost for new County roads, sunset of funding for Veterans Campus Representatives, insufficient funding of Individual Septic System program (ISTS), decrease in County Program Aid, beneficial change of Absentee Voting laws, simplification of Minnesota Property Tax laws.

The Legislatures thanked the Commissioners and Department Heads for their input.

Chairman Stearns called to order the Wadena County Truth in Taxation Informational Public Hearing at 6:00 p.m. in the Courthouse Auditorium. He stated the purpose of the meeting was to review the proposed 2011 County Budget and Tax Levy and address any questions the public had pertaining to such; the Meeting was not to discuss the reason why property taxes increased; the main purpose, according to Minnesota Law, was to enhance public participation in Minnesota's property tax system, educate the public as to how property taxes were determined,

to help the public understand the local budget process and encourage the public to become involved in helping elected officials set spending priorities. He added that the County Assessor was in attendance to answer any property valuation questions those in attendance may have.

Lee Brekke, County Assessor, pointed out that some of the issues, as to why property taxes were rising, was related to the Green Acres program but the biggest change was requiring that properties had to have 10 contiguous agricultural productive acres, if not, the property lost it's Ag classification and then went to the Residential Homestead classification; the rest of the changes were related to a shift of tax responsibilities.

Ms. West reviewed a handout outlining the 2011 Wadena County Budget and 2010 Payable 2011 Tax Levy which provided a comparison of the past three years; Expenditures-2009 Final Budget of \$20,498,763, 2010 Amended Budget-\$18,465,406 and 2011 Proposed Budget-\$19,047,951; Revenue that included State/Federal Aids- reflecting a 11% reduction from 2009 to 2011, Solid Waste Special Assessments, County Fees, Miscellaneous Revenues and Tax Levy that reflected a 3.2% increase between 2009 and 2010 and a 2.9% increase between 2010 and 2011 for a Payable 2011 Tax Levy of \$7,902,775, total Revenues 2009- \$20,123,941, 2010-\$19,033,875 and 2011-\$19,255,814. Ms. West pointed out that the 2011 revenues did not reflect the anticipated State Aid cuts; the 2011 budgeted expenditures include a \$700,000 reserve for anticipated State Aid cuts as well as unknowns due to the June 17, 2010 tornado disaster. She also reviewed information outlining the reduction in Estimated Market Value and the increase in Taxable Market Value, increase in Adjusted Tax Capacity and a comparison of annual County Tax Rates and Tax Levy Increases from 2001 to 2011.

Ms. West also commented that several reasons for the shift in Wadena County property taxes was caused by a decrease by the State in the MnCann taxable market value as well as several new property tax reduction or exemption programs initiated by the State Legislature.

Chairman Stearns called for questions from the audience.

Questions, discussion and concerns from the Audience related to; the MnCann Pipeline assessed value, State exemption programs, number of acres of County and State owned land within Wadena County, need for classification change of personal property located within a utility easement, turn back of County roads to Townships, the Commissioners conceding to holding hearings about unequal taxes and to date have not held those meetings, unequal comparison in property value between appraiser and assessor, increase in property taxes without any changes or improvements, reduction in County programs and Human Services, contact your Legislators.

As no additional questions or concerns were received from those in attendance, Chairman Stearns adjourned the Wadena County Truth in Taxation Information Hearing at 7:20 p.m.

Charleen West, Auditor/Treasurer

William Stearns, Chairman