

WADENA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ADJOURNED MEETING
FEBRUARY 18, 2010/9:00 A.M.

The Wadena County Board of Commissioners Meeting was held on Tuesday, February 18, 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 Rodney Bounds, Dave Schermerhorn, Lane Waldahl, Ralph Miller, Auditor/Treasurer Char West.

Agenda: Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Miller, to amend the day's Agenda to include 10:45) Richard Sorgert, Pipeline Concerns; 11:00) Deana Skov, Zoning/Parks Director, h.) Prairie Lakes Municipal Solid Waste Authority Agreement; i.) Set Future Board Meeting Dates, motion carried.

Minutes: Motion by Miller, seconded by Bounds, to approve the Board of Commissioner Meeting minutes of February 2, 2010, as amended, motion carried.

MN Lawful Gambling Application: Bill Smith came before the Board to request Board approval of an Application for an Exempt Gambling Permit for Wahoo Valley Chapter of MN Deer Hunters, to be held on April 24, 2010.

Motion by Waldahl, second by Schermerhorn, to approve the Application for an Exempt Gambling Permit for Wahoo Valley Chapter of MN Deer Hunters to be held on April 24, 2010, motion carried.

Future Board Meeting Dates: Chairman Stearns set the following Board Meeting dates: April 6, 2010, April 23, 2010, May 4, 2010, May 20, 2010, June 1, 2010, June 17, 2010, July 6, 2010, and July 22, 2010.

Prairie Lakes Municipal Solid Waste Authority Joint Powers Agreement: Mike Gibson, Consultant, came before the Board to answer any questions the Board had regarding the Prairie Lakes Municipal Solid Waste Authority Joint Powers Agreement relating to the Perham Resource Recovery Facility, which had previously been distributed. He informed the Board that the County Attorney had reviewed the Agreement and all was in order; the Otter Tail, Becker, and Todd County Boards had all signed the Agreement. Mr. Gibson added that the Facility had previously received a 2.8 million dollar grant from the State Bonding Bill for an expansion and that Otter Tail County Commissioner Doug Huebsch and Otter Tail/Wadena Solid Waste Director Mike Hanen were at the Capital speaking with Senators and requesting an additional 3 million dollar grant. He pointed out that the Project would go ahead whether or not the Facility receive the second grant.

Chairman Stearns commented that the Project had involved two to three years of work by the Perham Resource Recovery Center Board in developing the Prairie Lakes Municipal Solid Waste Authority Joint Powers Agreement. He added that MPCA had written favorable comments for the expansion and may have some funds to offer. Chairman Stearns questioned Mr. Gibson if it would be his recommendation, after sitting on the Committee and acting as Wadena County's representative and Liaison, that Wadena County proceed with the approval of the Joint Powers Agreement.

Mr. Gibson responded "very definitely". He added that it was a unique project and first of its kind; the Project had received the attention of the Legislators and the support of some. Mr. Gibson pointed out that this was the second time outsiders had observed Wadena County being involved in a collaborative effort with other counties.

Motion Wahdahl, seconded by Bounds, to approve the signing of the Prairie Lakes Municipal Solid Waste Authority Joint Powers Agreement as follows;

WADENA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Prairie Lakes Municipal Solid Waste Authority Joint Powers Agreement

WHEREAS, the Wadena County Board of Commissioners is mandated by the State of Minnesota to manage solid waste generated by its citizens in environmentally correct and state approved processes; and

WHEREAS, Wadena County Board of Commissioners agree to join together with Otter Tail County, Todd County, and Becker County, to form a joint powers agreement authorized under Minnesota Statute 471.59 for the purpose of purchasing the Perham Resource Recovery Facility and to work together to resolve solid waste issues in an environmentally preferred manner.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That Wadena County will join together with Otter Tail County, Todd County, and Becker County to create a joint powers agreement to be called the Prairie Lakes Municipal Solid Waste Authority.

Duly adopted this 18th day of February, 2010 at Wadena, Minnesota.

COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Wadena County, Minnesota

ATTEST:

/s/ _____
Charleen West, Auditor/Treasurer

/s/ _____
William Stearns, Chair

Motion carried unanimously.

2010 Board Committee Appointments: The Board reviewed the 2010 Committee Appointment listing and requested the addition of the Ditch Committee and representatives Commissioner Miller and Commissioner Schermerhorn.

Public Health: Karen Nelson, Public Health Director, came to the Board to request approval to apply for additional Public Health Disaster funding.

Motion Schermerhorn, seconded by Miller, to authorize the Public Health Director to apply, as a Board of Health for PHER IV, for additional public health disaster preparedness funding to be used by July 31, 2010; application due by February 26, 2010, motion carried.

Ms. Nelson also reported on the County Health Rankings; the ranking of the health status in counties was done throughout the Nation and based on data that was available in all 50 states. She added that how long we live and how ill we are was looked at as well as health factors including health behaviors, clinical care, socioeconomic, physical environment, diet and exercise, alcohol use, tobacco use, and un-safe sex. Ms. Nelson pointed out that Wadena County was 82 out of 85; 3rd from the bottom in the category of early deaths and lots of disease; Wadena County was doing well in health behaviors. She added that this information may be helpful in receiving funds to target a certain area of health concerns within the County.

MN Lawful Gambling Application. Motion Schermerhorn, seconded by Miller, to approve an Application for a Lawful Gambling Permit for St. Joseph's Area Health Services to be held at the Blueberry Pines Golf Club on June 2, 2010, motion carried unanimously.

Retired Computer Request: The Board reviewed a letter received from the Nimrod Senior Center requesting the donation of a retired County computer. Chairman Stearns suggested that in the future a list be made up of the requests and reviewed with the MIS Director to determine how the computers should be distributed.

Motion by Schermerhorn, seconded by Waldahl, to approve the donation of a retired Wadena County computer to the Nimrod Senior Citizens, motion carried.

Planning and Zoning: Deana Skov, Zoning/Parks Director, came before the Board to inform them that she had applied for two grants through BWSR; one had been received in the amount of \$50,000 which would be used to work on the in-house data base and inventory of septic systems. She pointed out that the grant would cover the wages of the new staff person for two years and promote her training in their Department.

2010 Health Reimbursement Account Agreement: Tabled until the March 2, 2010 Board of Commissioners Meeting.

Request for Extension of Use of Accumulated Employee Vacation Time: Char West, Auditor/Treasurer, requested Board authorization for Auditor's Office employee Debbie Mursu, Payroll Supervisor, to extend the use of accumulated vacation hours that had exceeded the maximum hours in December 2009 and January 2010; this situation occurred when she cancelled her vacation due to the delay in the annual health insurance renewal process; all hours would be used prior to May 1, 2010.

Motion by Schermerhorn, seconded by Miller, to authorize an extension to use accumulated vacation hours over the maximum for Debbie Mursu, Payroll Supervisor: carry over 10.33 accumulated vacation hours in December 2009 over 240 hour maximum and carry over 13.33 accumulated vacation hours in January 2010 over 240 hr. maximum, to be used prior to May 1, 2010, motion carried.

Veterans Affairs Enhancement Grant: Dave Anderson, Veteran's Service Officer, came before the Board to inform them that he had received information that Wadena County would be in receipt of a \$5,000 grant; a Board motion was needed to enter into a contract with the MN Department of Veterans Affairs in order to receive the grant for Menahga, Sebeka, and Verndale for Community TV to air Veterans spots, which was very accessible for local Veterans.

Motion by Miller, seconded by Waldahl, to authorize entering into a contract with the MN Department of Veterans Affairs to receive a \$5,000 grant to be used for Community TV to air Veterans spots for Menahga, Sebeka and Verndale, motion carried.

Board of Commissioner Bills: Motion by Miller, seconded by Bounds, to approve payment of the Board of Commissioner Bills in the amount of \$153,119.34, motion carried unanimously.

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW): Chairman Stearns informed the Board that the Solid Waste Committee discussed with Mike Hanen, Otter Tail/Wadena Solid Waste Director, the possible use of Otter Tail's HHW unit rather than Becker County's since Mr. Hanen was now the Solid Waste Director for both Otter Tail and Wadena Counties. He pointed out that the hazardous waste needed to be collected and removed, which would eliminate the storage of the waste.

Governor's Budget Proposal: Chairman Stearns reported, for information only, that the Governor's budget proposed Wadena County's unallotment of County Program Aid (CPA) in the amount of \$203,629 as well as a recommendation to further reduce the County's CPA \$377,739; if approved these cuts would total a \$581,368 cut for 2010. He pointed out that the State had certified Wadena County's CPA in the amount of \$994,949; the County would only receive \$413,581.

Retired Computer Request: Barb Butler, St. Ann's School representative, came before the Board to request that the County donate retired County computers to their school, as was done the previous year.

Chairman Stearns explained that the County replaced some computers every year; a request had previously been received from the Nimrod Senior Citizens Office and last year St. Ann's School received eight retired County computers. He added that the County needed to develop a policy that would distribute the retired computers evenly.

Ms. Butler responded that the School did have another avenue to replace their computers and that they need to replace eleven computers.

Commissioner Waldahl recommended St. Ann's School type a letter of request which could be added to the other requested for retired County computers.

The Board recessed at 9:56 a.m.

The Board reconvened at 10:15 a.m.

Highway Department: Jeff Adolphson, Assistant Highway Engineer, came to the Board and presented them with an agenda. He requested Board approval to purchase a copy machine from Marco, Inc. through National Joint Powers Alliance (NJPA). He pointed out that Transportation Committee had reviewed the quotes (as follows) and recommended accepting the low quote from NJPA for a Sharp Copier MX410N Copier/Scan/Fax machine.

State Contract-Richo	\$9,849.00
Coopers Technology-Panasonic	\$12,222.00
Marco/NJPA – Sharp	\$8,772.00

Motion by Miller, seconded by Bounds, to approve the low quote to the Highway Department, submitted by Marco, Inc. through National Joint Powers Alliance, for a Sharp Copier MX-410N Copier/Scan/Fax in the amount of \$8,772.00, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Adolphson requested Board authorization to allow him to retain the compensatory time he had earned after the County Engineer left on October 24, 2009. He added that the Transportation Committee had reviewed the request and recommended that he be allowed to maintain the balance of up to 80 hours and to use the overage up to September 1, 2010.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded Miller, to authorize the Assistant Highway Engineer, following the resignation of the Highway Engineer on October 24, 2009, to maintain a balance of up to 80 hours of compensatory time and to allow him to use this time up to September 1, 2010, motion carried.

Mr. Adolphson requested Board approval for the 4-Way Stop at 1st St. and Colfax Ave. in Wadena after conferring with the District State Aid Engineer and District Traffic Engineer for MN/DOT. He distributed a copy of the Engineer's recommendation regarding the in-place stop, which, based on the data it was recommended that the 4 Way Stop stay in place. Mr. Adolphson pointed out that the District Traffic Engineer for MnDOT was in agreement and that he would contact the City of Wadena regarding signage if this was approved by the Board.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Miller, to approve the permanent placement of a 4-Way Stop at 1st St. and Colfax Ave. in Wadena, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Adolphson requested a 60-day extension of the Leave of Absence for Keith Milbradt of the Highway Department starting March 1, 2010.

Motion by Schermerhorn, seconded by Bounds, to approve the extension of a Leave of Absence for Keith Milbradt for 60 days starting March 1, 2010, motion carried.

Mr. Adolphson shared with the Board the 2010 State Aid Highway Allotments, showing a 4.17% increase in 2010 over 2009.

Commissioners Reports:

Commissioner Waldahl: Wadena Township Board Meeting - requesting a bike path and a walking path along Co Hwy 101 for safety reasons, he read a letter from the Township, he advised the Township to work with the Assistant Highway Engineer; SHIPS program was being cut drastically in the Governor's proposal.

MinnCan Pipeline Concerns: Richard Sorgert, Thomastown Township resident, came before the Board with concerns regarding the pipeline that ran through the County as well as his property.

Also present were County Assessor Lee Brekke and Assistant Highway Engineer Jeff Adolphson.

Mr. Sorgert expressed concerns over some parcels without defined easements; a local newspaper reporting that the Township and County received funds from the pipeline which was restricted in use; the value should be reduced for tax purposes. Mr. Sorgert commented that he could not raise a crop nor could he build on the property. He added that he had contacted Senator Dan Skogen.

Further discussion was held regarding the valuation and taxation of the pipeline and property easement.

Mr. Sorgert commented that maybe the County should make an amendment to their Zoning regulations to reclassify the property. He added that he intended to pursue the issue and hoped the Board would work with him; he felt the County should compensate the devaluation of his land by reclassification of the land and that the County should try to get the easements defined.

Chairman Stearns requested Mr. Brekke research, with the State Assessor, to find out what things were taken into consideration.

Commissioners Reports continued:

Commissioner Bounds: Public Health Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Miller: Transit Advisory Committee Meeting, Ditch Committee Meeting – problems in the City of Staples with clogged ditches, the law regarding ditches goes back to a 1907 law and that the problem was that the rural ditches now were within the City limits of Staples.

Commissioner Schermerhorn: Ditch Committee Meeting - Todd and Wadena County have requested the City of Staples to take over Judicial Ditches 5 and 8 so the Counties would not be responsible. The City was reluctant

to take this over. The 1907 law stated that the regulations could not be altered. The only people that would get taxed if the ditches were fixed were the residents that benefit from it.

Chairman Stearns: Solid Waste Committee Meeting - discussed the condition of the pay loader, also the yard truck, both were on their last leg, Mr. Hanen would research. The wells at the Transfer Station were showing some organics, Widseth, Smith & Nolting were monitoring the wells for which they were being paid to do, the PCA was involved; AMC County Futures Meeting; Transportation Committee - 10 County Engineer applicants, 5 were being interviewed, 2 interviews yesterday and 3 scheduled for this afternoon.

Commissioner Miller: Community Gardens - checked on organic requirements as far as pesticides were concerned, he was advised that if the Food Shelf had to rely on organic foods, their shelves would be empty.

Chairman Stearns commented that Consultant Mike Gibson had attended today's Meeting with his report on the Prairie Lakes Agreement; this would pretty much end his involvement with Wadena County Solid Waste as Mr. Hanen was now the Solid Waste Director.

Chairman Stearns: Pipeline Safety & Awareness Meeting

Motion by Miller, seconded by Bounds, to adjourn the Board of Commissioners Adjourned Meeting at 11:29 a.m., motion carried.

Charleen West, Auditor/Treasurer

William Stearns, Chairman