

WADENA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 30, 2010, 1:00 P.M.

A Special Meeting of the Wadena County Board of Commissioners was held on Thursday, September 30, 2010, at the Wadena County Courthouse in the Commissioners Room at 415 Jefferson St. S., Wadena Minnesota. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chairman William Stearns and the pledge of allegiance to the flag was said.

Present: Commissioners Lane Waldahl, Rodney Bounds, Dave Schermerhorn, Ralph Miller, Auditor/Treasurer Char West, Highway Engineer Ryan Odden and 4-H Coordinator Kris Huebsch.

Regional Community Development Block Grant: Auditor/Treasurer Char West, informed the Board that the Region 5 Development Commission was requesting a Letter of Support for a regional Community Development Block Grant application to the MN Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) for a CBDG Microenterprise Assistance Grant that would provide increased funding for business counseling services. She read information from the Region 5 Director which stated; if funded the SBDC office and satellite offices would be utilized to deliver technical assistance to companies with low to moderate income levels, no match was required for this grant by the counties and the grant application and administration would be done through Crow Wing County.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Schermerhorn, to approve the submission of a Letter of Support from Wadena County to Crow Wing County for an application for a Regional Community Development Block Grant to provide increased funding for business counseling in the Region, motion carried.

County Fairgrounds Questions Regarding FEMA Participation: Ms. West advised the Board that she had informed FEMA of the Board's designation of a Committee to research options for the repair and rebuilding of the 4-H Building, as well as the Board's request for this Committee to meet and ask questions of FEMA relating to their participation in such. She commented that FEMA's response was favorable to meet with the Committee but they asked that questions be compiled and e-mailed to them prior to the meeting.

Board questions are as follows;

- If the insurance proceeds of two or three smaller buildings were combined to build one larger building, would FEMA participate in this and if so, what would the procedure be?
- If County and Ag Society insurance proceeds of two or three smaller buildings were combined to build one larger building, would FEMA participate in this and if so, what would the procedure be?
 - What is the difference between FEMA mitigation and Homeland Security mitigation?
 - Does FEMA mitigation allow the construction of a Safe Room; if so, how big could the Safe Room be and what other functions could the room be used for?
 - What is the timeframe for rebuilding using FEMA funds?

- The County's insurance covered on destroyed buildings allows up to two years to rebuild and still be eligible to receive the additional 25% insurance depreciation on the destroyed building. How would FEMA respond if the rebuilding would not be completed within its timeframe.

- If in the process of rebuilding, can an extension be obtained from FEMA?
- How can FEMA funds be used over and above the County's insurance proceeds?

Discussion was held regarding the possibility of MCIT attending the Committee Meeting with FEMA.

- When FEMA funds are used does it trigger prevailing wage requirements?
- What are FEMA's required bidding process and architectural and engineering requirements?
- Are architectural and engineering services an eligible FEMA expense?
- How would the rebuilding of the destroyed Quonset building in a different location affect the archeological requirements?

The Board questioned Kris Huebsch, 4-H Coordinator, as to what questions she may have relating to the rebuilding of the 4-H Building.

Ms. Huebsch, commented that the 4-H Club would need the 4-H Building rebuilt by April 1st as activities in the building start on that date; dog training, renting out for garage sales, wedding receptions, etc. She added that the 4-H Club needed the income for the purpose of paying utility expenses and repairs.

Discussion was held regarding the possible relocation of dog training to the Wensman Building Transit Garage and the renting out of the kitchen dining area that was still intact. Discussion continued pointing out that the mold in the existing half of the building may not allow the Health Department to re-license the kitchen.

The Board questioned Ryan Odden, Highway Engineer, what the current status was on the rebuilding of the Horse Barn by the Ag Society, as he had been delegated to work with them on this project.

Mr. Odden informed the Board that he and one of the Highway Technicians had laid out the location for the rebuilding of the Horse Barn on the old Horse Arena and the Ag Society anticipated the building to be rebuilt by November 1, 2010.

Discussion was held relating to the rebuilding of the Horse Barn by the Ag Society.

Mr. Odden informed the Board that he and Commissioner Waldahl were in the process of obtaining quotes for the sealing up of the 4-H Building, which would be presented to the Board during their October 5, 2010 Board Meeting. He added that the Sentence to Serve Crew Leader had indicated that they would be available to do the project in several weeks.

- Would FEMA funds be available for drainage and site work?

The Board questioned Ms. Huebsch regarding the summer activities that were held in the 4-H Building.

Ms. Huebsch responded that the 4-H Building was winterized and closed from November to April; starting in April dog training was held for fourteen weeks and the building was open for rent by the Posse, Gun Training, Wildlife Expo, etc.; starting in May garage sales and wedding receptions were held; in July the building was closed to prepare for the Fair; following the Fair it was reopened for rent. She added that 4-H Club Meeting and events were also held in the building.

The Board requested Ms. Huebsch provide them with a dollar figure of rental income for the summer months.

Chairman Stearns recessed the Special Board Meeting at 1:52 p.m.

Chairman Stearns reconvened the Special Board Meeting at 2:03 p.m.

Closed Session to Evaluate Performance of Individual: Chairman Stearns closed the Special Board of Commissioners Meeting at 2:03 p.m. for the purpose of meeting to evaluate the performance of an individual subject to its authority in the Highway Department. Present were Commissioners Schermerhorn, Miller, Stearns, Bounds, Waldahl, Human Resource Consultant Mike Gibson, Highway Engineer Ryan Odden, County Attorney Kyra Ladd, and Auditor/Treasurer Char West.

Chairman Stearns re-opened the Special Board of Commissioners Meeting at 2:35 p.m.

Closed Session to Strategize for 2011 Negotiations: Chairman Stearns closed the Special Board of Commissioners Meeting at 2:37 p.m. for the purpose of strategizing for the upcoming 2011 Labor Negotiations. Present: Commissioners Schermerhorn, Stearns, Bounds, Waldahl, Highway Engineer Ryan Odden, and Auditor/ Treasurer Char West. Absent: Commissioner Miller due to a conflict of interest relating to the subject matter.

Chairman Stearns re-opened the Special Board of Commissioners Meeting at 3:26 p.m.

Chairman Stearns adjourned the Special Board of Commissioners Meeting at 3:27 p.m.

Charleen West, Auditor/Treasurer

William Stearns, Chairman