

COMMISSIONER PROCEEDINGS

March 13, 2007

Minutes of the Board of Wilkin County Commissioners held at the Courthouse, Breckenridge, Minnesota, on Tuesday, March 13, 2007. All Commissioners were present. Chairperson Miranowski called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M.

Motion by Blaufuss, seconded by Hovland and carried, to approve the agenda with additions.

Motion by Perry, seconded by Folstad and carried, to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2007, meeting.

Motion by Blaufuss, seconded by Folstad and carried, to approve an amended Waiver Contract with Medica.

Motion by Blaufuss, seconded by Perry and carried, to approve a contract with Traverse Electric Coop, Wheaton, Minnesota, for the Life Line Program.

Motion by Perry, seconded by Folstad and carried, to approve the Public Health Nursing Report.

Motion by Perry, seconded by Hovland and carried, to approve the contract with Mark Sand and Gravel Acquisition of Fergus Falls, Minnesota, for the CSAH #32 Project and authorized the Chairperson and County Auditor to sign said contract.

Based on the recommendation of the County's Consultant, there was a motion by Folstad, seconded by Blaufuss and carried, to approve adding a weed spraying duty to the Highway Maintenance II position without any change to the pay grade in the County's Pay System for that position. If a current Maintenance II employee does not apply to undertake the position, one will be appointed, with training and licensing provided by the County.

Motion by Blaufuss, seconded by Perry and carried, to authorize a \$15,000.00 transfer from the Revenue Fund to the Road and Bridge Fund as reimbursement for the final payment of the purchase of the Krause Property.

Motion by Hovland, seconded by Folstad and carried, to approve the County Five Year Road Plan.

Commissioner Blaufuss offered the following resolution and moved for it's adoption. Commissioner Hovland seconded the motion. Said resolution was adopted by a 3 to 2 vote with Commissioners Perry and Folstad voting no.

RESOLUTION 15-07
A RESOLUTION REQUESTING
COMPREHENSIVE ROAD AND TRANSIT FUNDING IN 2007

WHEREAS, all Minnesota counties benefit from an efficient and adequately funded

transportation system that offers diverse modes of travel; and

WHEREAS, due to budget constraints, counties are increasingly deferring maintenance on their 30,000 miles of county state aid highways, 15,000 miles of county roads, and over 7,000 bridges; and

WHEREAS, local cost participation requirements for trunk highway projects are putting undue pressure on county highway budgets; and

WHEREAS, the main source of funding, County State Aid Highway Funding is declining and property taxes, and local bonding are having to shoulder more of the burden; and

WHEREAS, the recently approved constitutional amendment that phases in dedication of 100 percent of the motor vehicle sales tax (MVST) for transportation purposes will address only a fraction of the transportation funding needs in Minnesota, and total MVST revenues are not meeting projections; and

WHEREAS, transportation analysts, in consultation with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), estimate Minnesota will have to invest an additional \$1.5 billion per year in transportation infrastructure for the next ten years in order to meet identified needs; and

WHEREAS, transportation infrastructure maintenance and improvement costs significantly contribute to rising property taxes; and

WHEREAS, lack of state funding has delayed regionally significant road construction and reconstruction projects across Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota's transportation system is failing to meet the capacity needs necessary to sustain population growth and promote economic development; and

WHEREAS, congestion, inefficient transportation systems and lack of transportation choices lead to greater dependence on foreign oil, increased environmental degradation, and economic disadvantages for Minnesota's businesses and residents; and

WHEREAS, many rural roads are not built to modern safety standards and are not meeting the needs of industries that depend on the ability to transport heavy loads; and

WHEREAS, current funding for roads and transit systems across all government levels in Minnesota is inadequate, and this under-investment hinders Minnesota's economic competitiveness.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WILKIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, that this County requests that in 2007 the Minnesota Legislature pass a comprehensive transportation funding package that permanently increases dedicated funding for transportation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE WILKIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, that this County requests that in 2007, Governor Tim Pawlenty allow a comprehensive transportation funding package that permanently increases dedicated funding for transportation that is passed by the Legislature to become law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE WILKIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, that Wilkin County supports funding options including, but not limited to the following:

- * An increase in gas tax of 5 cents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE WILKIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, that Wilkin County defines a comprehensive transportation funding package as an initiative that permanently increases dedicated funding for state and local road and transit systems in Greater Minnesota and the Metropolitan Area.

Adopted this 13th day of March, 2007.

Stephanie Miranowski
Chairperson

Attest: Wayne Bezenek
County Auditor
(Seal)

Motion by Hovland, seconded by Folstad and carried, to authorize calling for quotes for equipment rental and culverts.

Motion by Folstad, seconded by Hovland and carried, to restore the damaged parking lot light pole standard to its original condition.

Motion by Perry, seconded by Hovland and carried, to approve the County Engineer's Report.

Matt Brodina, County Jail Administrator, provided the Commission with a update on jail operations.

Bruce Albright and Roger Ellefson of the Buffalo-Red River Watershed District, attended the meeting and provided an update for the Commission on the Manston Slough Project in Wilkin County.

Bruce Poppel, Environmental Officer, shared a list of septic systems which have been ordered to be updated in 2007. It was indicated that the available dollars in the low interest loan program would be insufficient to cover the needs if all systems applied for the program. The County will explore the availability of any alternative funding.

Motion by Perry, seconded by Folstad and carried, to approve the Ag. Inspector's Report.

Commissioner Hovland offered the following resolution and moved for it's adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Perry and carried.

RESOLUTION 16-07

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes 244.19 subdivision 6, outlines a process for State reimbursement to participating counties for 50% of the cost of their probation officer salaries; and

WHEREAS, 28 County Probation Officer counties and 27 Department of Corrections contract counties participate in this process; and

WHEREAS, appropriations from the State have steadily decreased from 50% in 1996 to as low as 38% in 2004; and

WHEREAS, the 55 counties participating in this process have been forced to make up the

deficit in the reimbursement funding for their probation officers; and

WHEREAS, the 2007 Legislature Session will be setting and passing the FY 08 and FY 09 appropriation for probation officer salary reimbursement for these 55 counties; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Association of County Probation Officers has been working with the Department of Corrections and legislative staff to ensure that an accurate FY 08 and FY 09 appropriation amount be determined.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wilkin County Board of Commissioners strongly requests the 2007 Legislature to appropriate sufficient funds to reimburse the 55 participating counties for the full 50% of the cost of their probation officer salaries.

Adopted this 13th day of March, 2007.

Stephanie Miranowski
Chairperson

Attest: Wayne Bezenek
County Auditor
(Seal)

Motion by Folstad, seconded by Blaufuss and carried, to approve an amended agreement with MCIT for drug and alcohol testing of County Employees and authorized the Chairperson and County Auditor to sign said agreement.

Several informational items were shared.

With no further business before the Commission and the next regularly scheduled meeting set for March 20, 2007, at 8:00 A.M. in the Commissioners Room, Chairperson Miranowski adjourned the meeting at 10:00 A.M.

Stephanie Miranowski
Chairperson

Attest: Wayne Bezenek
County Auditor
(seal)